

GOVERNMENT SAYS
NO NEED TO PARK
RECALLED GM CARS

Page 6



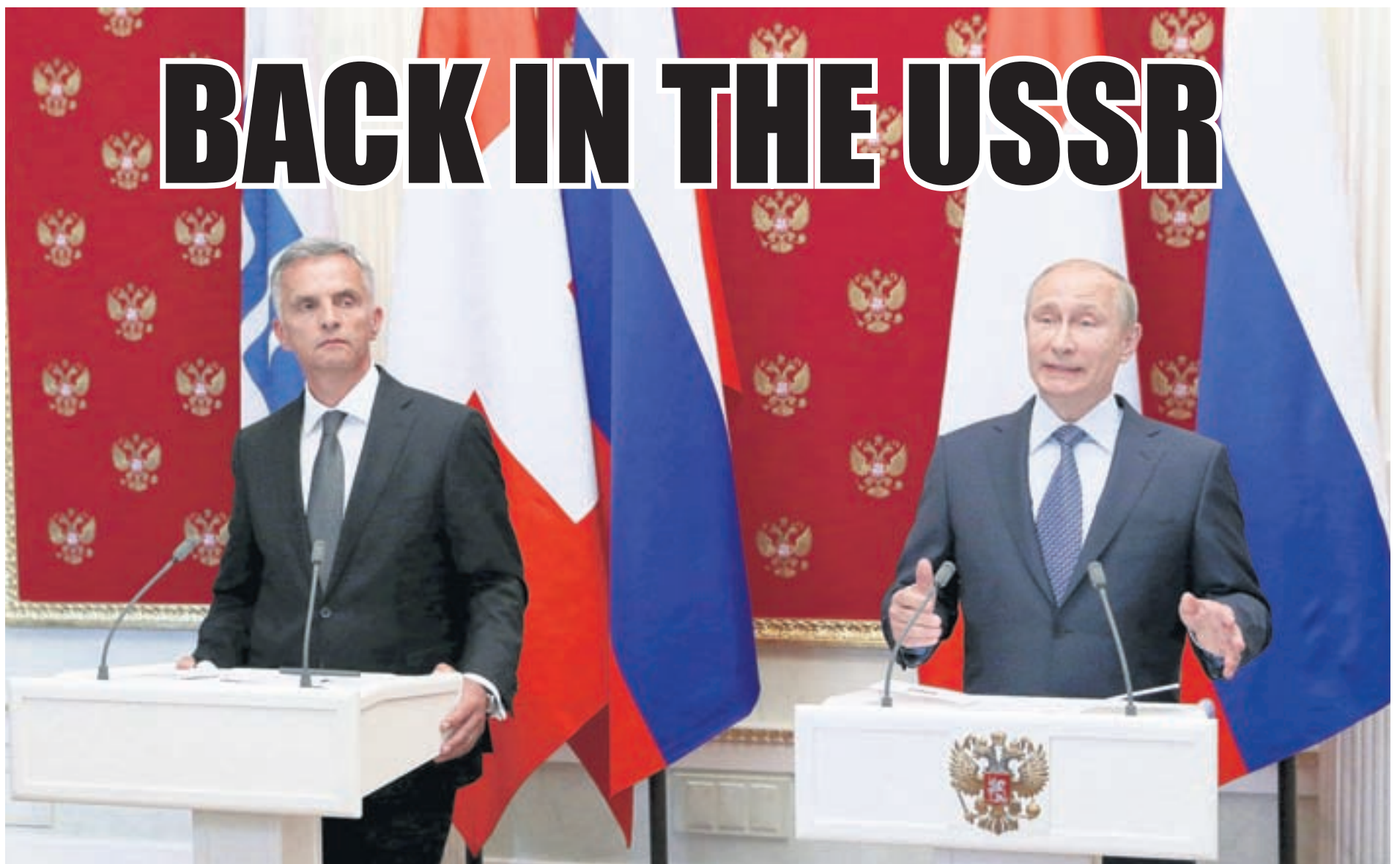
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Page 13



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, May 8, 2014



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Swiss Federal President Didier Burkhalter hold a joint news conference in the Kremlin in Moscow, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Russia has pulled back its troops from the Ukrainian border, Vladimir Putin told diplomats Wednesday as he urged insurgents in southeast Ukraine to postpone their planned referendum Sunday on autonomy.

(AP Photo/Sergei Karpukhin)

Putin Announces Pullback from Ukraine Border

NEIL MacFARQUHAR
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MOSCOW - In an apparent attempt to halt the escalating violence in southeastern Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia was pulling troops back from the border, and he urged Ukrainian separatists to call off a referendum on sovereignty they had hoped to hold Sunday.

Speaking at the Kremlin after talks with the president of Switzerland, who is acting as the chief mediator for Europe in the crisis, Putin said Russia wanted to give diplomacy a chance. "We were told constantly about concerns over our troops near the Ukrainian border," Putin said. "We have pulled them back. Today they are not at the

Ukrainian border but in places of regular exercises, at training grounds." NATO officials said they saw no immediate sign that Russian forces had pulled back, news services reported from NATO's headquarters in Brussels. A White House spokesman, Josh Earnest, told reporters traveling with President Barack Obama aboard Air Force

One that while the United States would welcome a Russian military pullback from the Ukraine border region, "there has been no evidence that such a withdrawal has taken place." Citing negotiations between Ukrainian separatists and the interim government in Kiev, Putin also said he was appealing "to representatives of south-

east Ukraine and supporters of federalization to hold off the referendum scheduled for May 11, in order to give this dialogue the conditions it needs to have a chance." The reaction in Kiev and among the separatists in southeastern Ukraine was a combination of suspicion and mistrust.

Continued on Page 2

Putin announces pullback from Ukraine border

Continued from front

In Ukraine, there was a feeling that Putin was again seeking to manipulate the situation, while the separatists either declined to comment or said they

25 presidential elections, which Moscow had previously rejected.

"Let me stress that the presidential election the Kiev authorities plan to hold is a step in the right direction, but it will not solve anything

Russia's soldiers were involved, only to admit later that they were, there was some chance that it was all a feint. Previously, for example, senior defense officials have said Russia was withdrawing what Western



Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk stands in front of Ukrainian soldiers at a block post on the road at Slovyansk, Ukraine, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Ukrainian military operations that began Monday to expunge pro-Russia forces from the city of Slovyansk were the interim government's most ambitious effort so far to quell weeks of unrest in Ukraine's mainly Russian-speaking east.

(AP Photo/Andrew Kravchenko)

were unsure exactly to whom the Russian leader was appealing.

Putin said he wanted the authorities in Kiev to immediately halt all military actions in southeastern Ukraine, referring to them again as "punitive operations." He also welcomed the release of militants the Ukrainians had been holding, particularly Pavel Gubarev, a "people's governor" in Donetsk who had been detained by the Ukrainian security services. "We think the most important thing now is to launch direct dialogue, genuine, full-fledged dialogue between the Kiev authorities and representatives of southeast Ukraine," he said, standing next to Didier Burkhalter, the president of Switzerland and the chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is coordinating the mediation effort.

"This dialogue could give people from southeast Ukraine the chance to see that their lawful rights in Ukraine really will be guaranteed," he said. Putin also left the door open to Russia accepting, under certain conditions, the May

unless all of Ukraine's people first understand how their rights will be guaranteed once the election has taken place," Putin said.

Putin was basically demanding that the mediation achieve what Russia has been seeking since the rebellion in Kiev overthrew Ukraine's leader and Moscow's ally, President Viktor Yanukovich, on Feb. 28: that Kiev grant some level of autonomy to the regions, including electing their own governors and directing their own foreign policy with their immediate neighbors. Such a change would allow Russia some measure of control over the future direction of Ukraine and a possible veto over Ukraine's attempts to join the European Union, or worse from Russia's viewpoint, NATO.

"We all want the crisis to end as soon as possible, and in such a way that takes into account the interests of all people in Ukraine no matter where they live," said Putin, according to the official Kremlin transcript of his remarks.

Given Russia's record in Crimea, where Putin repeatedly denied that

officials said were 40,000 troops from the border to barracks. But the soldiers remained.

Both Crimea and southeastern Ukraine have large populations of ethnic Russians, and Putin has insisted on Moscow's right to intervene to protect them if they are endangered. Western governments have accused the Kremlin of fomenting the very unrest and violence that Putin has vowed to protect ethnic Russians against.

The pro-Russian militants who have seized public buildings in at least a dozen cities in eastern Ukraine have said they will hold a referendum on the future of the region on Sunday, creating a possible flash point with the interim government in Kiev.

On Wednesday, the militants controlling at least a dozen towns in southeastern Ukraine seemed perplexed by the Kremlin's announcement. Both Moscow and the militants have repeatedly said that their actions are not coordinated, despite the shadowy presence of well-trained, well-armed men Ukraine accuses of being Russian military. □

Cuba holding 4 exiles, says planning "terrorist actions"

**PETER ORSI
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Four Cuban exiles from Miami are being held for planning "terrorist actions" against military targets on the island, Havana authorities said Wednesday in announcing the first such arrests in years.

The Interior Ministry said the men were detained April 26, but released few specific details. It was not clear why it took so long to make the arrests public. "They intended to attack military installations with the goal of perpetrating violent actions," the ministry said in a statement published by the Communist Party newspaper Granma. "To such ends, since mid-2013, three of them had made several trips to the island to study and carry out their plan." The arrests come amid increased exchanges between exiles and their homeland, including visits by several prominent former hardliners who had vowed never to set foot in Cuba while brothers Fidel and Raul Castro were still in charge. The statement identified the detained men as Jose Ortega Amador, Obdulio Rodriguez Gonzalez, Raibel Pacheco Santos and Felix Monzon Alvarez.

None are well-known within the exile community in South Florida, but Cuba claimed they were acting on orders from others who do have a history of militancy. Pacheco had been part of a tiny exile group called Fuerza Cubana de Liberacion Inc., defunct since 2010. The ministry said it was reaching out to U.S. authorities to investigate.

"We have seen the statement by the Cuban Ministry of Interior," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. "We don't have any further information at this time. The Cuban government has also not been in touch with us yet on these cas-

es." The U.S. Interests Section in Havana and the FBI office in Miami had no immediate reaction.

In its statement, the Interior Ministry alleged the plot was masterminded by Santiago Alvarez Fernandez Magrina, Osvaldo Mitat and Manuel Alzugaray in Miami. It also linked them to perhaps the best known militant Cuban exile, Luis Posada Carriles, whom Cuba and Venezuela have sought to prosecute for a 1976 airliner bombing that killed 73 people aboard a flight bound for Cuba.

"We categorically deny that Luis has absolutely anything to do with this or has any knowledge of any of these individuals who were allegedly arrested in Cuba," said Arturo Hernandez, Posada Carriles' attorney.

Hernandez said that Posada has been ill with cancer for most of the past two years and that it was "ridiculous" to suggest he would lead any military incursion in Cuba.

Santiago Alvarez and Mitat pleaded guilty in 2006 in the United States to conspiracy after an informant tipped the FBI that a large cache of weapons, including machine guns and a grenade launcher, was being moved from apartments Alvarez owned.

A subsequent search of a storage area at the apartment revealed more weapons and thousands of bullets. Another arms cache was found in the Bahamas, including C-4 plastic explosive, which prosecutors claimed was linked to Alvarez. He was sentenced to 30 months in prison and Mitat got a two-year sentence. Contacted Wednesday, Santiago Alvarez denied involvement in any plot and said he did not know the detained men. He said he rarely speaks to Posada Carriles and only sees Mitat occasionally. Posada Carriles declined to comment. □

Police: Fire at Florida home was arson; 4 dead

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

The fire at a Florida mansion belonging to a former tennis star was intentionally set and four bodies were found in the charred remains, police said Wednesday.

The victims were described as two adults and two teenagers, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Col. Donna Luszczynski said. She described the fire as unusual and said there were "various fireworks" throughout the Tampa Bay-area home.

Two of the victims appeared to have suffered from upper-body trauma, but Luszczynski didn't indicate which ones or give any more details. She also said no weapons had been found and that murder-suicide was a possibility.

The teens' bodies were found in their respective bedrooms and the two adults were found in one bedroom, she said.



In this photo provided by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, flames destroy a mansion owned by former tennis star James Blake Wednesday May 7, 2014, in a gated community in Tampa, Fla. Officials have confirmed that three bodies have been found in the home. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Spokeswoman Cristal Bermudez Nunez says neighbors have told detectives that Blake hasn't lived in the house for a while and was renting it out.

(AP Photo/Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office)

at the time of the fire, Luszczynski said. She identified the renters as the Campbell family; voter registration records identified them as Darrin Campbell and his wife, Kimberly.

A former neighbor, George Connley, said Darrin Campbell was the treasurer of Carrollwood Day School, a private school attended by the Campbell's teenage children, Colin and Megan.

The Campbells were unaccounted for Wednesday, but Luszczynski would not say if authorities believed the bodies in the house to be theirs. She said the remains have not been positively identified yet.

At one time, Darrin Campbell was the senior vice president at PODS. □

GOP to open investigation over the IRS and Benghazi

JEREMY W. PETERS
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - House Republicans on Wednesday will take the first in a series of steps intended to spotlight what they are convinced is a pattern of cover-up and political whitewashing by the White House while Democrats contend the move is an election-year stunt.

The House of Representatives will vote late on Wednesday to hold in contempt Lois Lerner, a former official of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service who is at the center of multiple investigations into possible acts of political retribution. On Thursday, the House is expected to approve a resolution to establish a select committee to investigate the 2012 attack on American facilities in Benghazi, Libya.

Through multiple congressional investigations in both chambers, Republicans have sought to link President Barack Obama and his former secretary

Former tennis standout James Blake had been renting the home to a family for about the past two years, and was not there

of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to politically motivated efforts to obscure what happened in Benghazi when the American ambassador to Libya and three others were killed.

At the same time, parallel investigations on Capitol Hill have tried to show that the president and his aides used the IRS to persecute Tea Party groups in the hopes of muting their political effectiveness during the 2012 elections.

Both series of investigations point at a sinister motive by the White House: to cover up as much as possible so that Obama would not lose his re-election bid.

On Wednesday, Boehner - his voice rising in anger and his face darkening to red - went through the list of investigations that conservatives have pursued to frustratingly inconclusive ends over the last several years.

"When is the administration going to tell the American people the truth? They've not told the truth about Benghazi. □

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US House panel works to rebuff Pentagon cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. House Republicans are sparing Cold War-era aircraft, military bases and ships from Pentagon cuts as even conservative tea partiers abandon their drive to slash federal spending in an election year.

The House Armed Services Committee plunged into a marathon session on Wednesday to craft a \$601 billion defense bill that would authorize spending on planes, personnel, weapons and ships in the budget year that begins Oct. 1.

The overall spending matches a deficit-driven, bipartisan budget agreement, and reflects a new phase for the Pentagon after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Working within spending constraints, the Pentagon is seeking flexibility to ensure service members are ready to fight and the military can handle emerging threats.

"Sustaining our edge in the face of new strategic and fiscal challenges will require Congress' partnership in making tough choices, always looking at our broader national interests instead of narrow constituencies," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said this week.

Lawmakers largely ignored those words.

Rep. Jim Bridenstine, a Republican, a former pilot and a tea party favorite elected in 2012, won voice vote approval for saving three of seven AWACS aircraft, the airborne warning and control system that is based at Tinker Air Force Base in his home state of Oklahoma.

Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the commit-

tee, complained that sparing the planes would undermine the military, taking the money from spare and repair parts. He said Congress needs to make the tough choices now, otherwise U.S. forces will be ill-prepared to fight.

One day after a federal report warned of the dangers of man-made global warming, the GOP-led committee voted for provisions in the defense bill that would thwart Pentagon efforts to develop alternative biofuels to keep the military operating. Republicans outnumbered Democrats in backing two amendments by Rep. Mike Conaway, a Republican.

The committee rejected a Navy plan to put 11 cruisers in a reduced operating status, with Rep. Randy Forbes, a Republican,

pleading to keep the ships at sea. The panel backed a bipartisan amendment that would provide money for upgrade of two cruisers

and bar the Pentagon from retiring or placing any cruisers in an inactive status. That elicited an impassioned speech from Smith,

one of the few voices in the committee warning that it was short-sighted for the panel not to make the tough budget choices. □



Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, asks a question on Capitol Hill in Washington. The House Armed Services Committee plunged into a marathon session on Wednesday to craft a \$601 billion defense bill that would authorize spending on planes, personnel, weapons and ships in the budget year that begins Oct. 1.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

New York City Councilman Wills arrested

MARC SANTORA
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NEW YORK — A New York City councilman was arrested Wednesday on charges of misusing public funds, falsifying business records and trying to conceal the theft. The councilman, Ruben W. Wills, a Democrat who represents southeastern Queens, had been under investigation by the state attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, in connection with tens of thousands of dollars in public funds that went missing from a charity Wills used to run.

According to an indictment, Wills, 42, is accused of multiple counts of making false statements about funds connected to the charity to conceal his theft. He is also accused of stealing thousands of dollars' worth of property from the

New York state Office of Children and Family Services, although the indictment did not say what kind of property. Wills, striking a defiant tone as he stood outside the Queens criminal court where he was indicted, denied the charges.

"How many people have stood here before the cameras and said, 'I'm innocent'?" he said. "I am." He told a crowd of reporters that he would not resign. "This is America, and here you're innocent until proven guilty," he said.

"I know because of where I come from and the color I am, it doesn't usually work like that with you guys," said Wills, who is black. "But I am presumed innocent." Schneiderman, speaking at a news conference in Manhattan, dismissed the idea that race played a role in

the charges against Wills, and he denounced the effects of official corruption. "This undermines public confidence in the system," said the attorney general, who is also a Democrat. "This discourages people from voting. This breaks down the compact between the public and the officials who swear to represent that public."

Jelani R. Mills, a relative of Wills, was also arrested on Wednesday and charged with conspiring with the councilman. A lawyer for Mills said his client would be exonerated.

In one scheme, according to court documents, the councilman abused a campaign finance system that was created specifically to control spending and avoid corruption.

New York City provides

candidates who agree to limits on campaign spending with matching funds. Wills participated in the system but stole a portion of the matching funds, according to court documents. He did so by creating a shell company - controlled by Mills - so that he could claim campaign expenditures he never made. In a second scheme, according to court documents, Wills obtained \$33,000 in state funding for his charity, New York 4 Life, but used more than half of the money for his own personal enrichment. He used the stolen money to make purchases at Nordstrom and Century 21, according to court documents.

In all, prosecutors say, Wills stole \$30,500 in government funds from the city and the state. □

Raids target synthetic drugs, sellers across US

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Drug Enforcement Administration on Wednesday broadened its national crackdown on synthetic drug manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers as federal agents served hundreds of search and arrest warrants in at least 25 U.S. states. Agents served warrants at homes, warehouses and smoke shops beginning early morning, DEA spokesman Rusty Payne said. The largest single operation was a statewide effort in Alabama. Agents also were active in 28 other states.

The DEA said agents made more than 150 arrests and served about 200 warrants.

Federal, state and local authorities seized hundreds of thousands of individual packets of synthetic drugs and hundreds of kilograms of synthetic products used to make the drugs.

Authorities also seized more than \$20 million in cash and assets, the DEA said.

U.S. authorities long have worried about criminal and terrorist groups in the Middle East using drug trafficking to fund illicit activities.

The DEA has been cracking down on synthetic drugs, including so-called bath salts, spice and Molly, since the drugs first gained widespread popularity years ago. In late 2010, the agency responsible for enforcing federal drug laws moved to ban five chemicals used to



Confiscated synthetic drugs are on display at a news conference at the DEA offices in Centennial, Colo., on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, where it was announced that a federal grand jury in Denver has returned indictments charging nine individuals from across the country with conspiracy and drug distribution charges related to "Spice".

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

Marathon suspect: Statements should be thrown out of court

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev argued Wednesday that statements he made to authorities after he was arrested should be thrown out because he was questioned for 36 hours in a hospital room without being told his rights and while suffering from gunshot wounds.

The lawyers said in pretrial court filings that federal agents began questioning Tsarnaev about 20 hours after he arrived at the hospital in critical condition and his statements can't be considered voluntary. Federal investigators questioned him shortly after last year's deadly bombing without formally telling him of his right to a lawyer, under a public safety exception allowed when there's concern about an ongoing threat.

But defense attorneys said the questioning continued "despite the fact that he quickly allayed concerns about any continuing threat to public safety, repeatedly asked for a lawyer, and begged to rest." They said his treatment included painkillers that im-

paired his judgment and increased his susceptibility to pressure.

Tsarnaev, 20, has pleaded not guilty to several federal charges. Prosecutors allege he and his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, planted two pressure cooker bombs near the marathon's finish line, killing three people and injuring more than 260. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died following a shootout with police several days after the bombing.

Also on Wednesday, the defense asked the judge to declare the federal death penalty unconstitutional, citing recent botched executions in Ohio and Oklahoma and arguing there's mounting evidence innocent people have been executed.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's lawyers said that the U.S. Constitution's protection against cruel and unusual punishment prohibits the application of the death penalty because it's not authorized under state law in Massachusetts. They cited "worldwide revulsion over the recurring spectacle of botched executions."

Federal prosecutors are expected to respond in their own filings. □

make synthetic marijuana blends, including K2, Spice and Blaze. Since then, drug manufacturers have continued to modify their formulas and develop new chemical mixtures. Ferdinand Large, staff coordinator for DEA's Special

Operations Division, said the agency is now broadly focused on Chinese chemical manufacturers and the distributors, wholesalers and retailers in the United States. There is also growing concern about where the money is going.

Investigators have tracked hundreds of millions of dollars in drug proceeds being sent to Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, Large said.

"The money is going there, where it stops we don't know," Large said. □

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Wendi Kunkel points out the key in the ignition on her 2010 Chevy Cobalt in Rockwall, Texas. Kunkel was instructed by her dealer to pull everything off her keychain, which GM contends will stop the ignition switches from turning off unexpectedly. But she's still nervous about driving her car on her 30-minute one-way commute.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

US says no need to park recalled GM cars

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — There's no need to tell owners of recalled General Motors small cars to stop driving them, according to U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

In a written response to two senators who asked for such an order, Foxx said

that engineers with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have determined it's not necessary. GM is recalling 2.6 million small cars worldwide to replace ignition switches that suddenly can slip out of the run position and shut off the engine. That can knock out power-assisted steering and cause drivers

to lose control and crash. It also disables the air bags. GM says at least 13 people have died in crashes linked to the problem. The company has admitted knowing about the problem for at least a decade, yet failing to recall the cars until this year.

The company has told owners to remove everything from their key chains, and the reduced weight will stop the switches from slipping into the "accessory" or "off" positions. Foxx, responding to a letter from Democratic Sens. Edward Markey of Massachusetts and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, said NHTSA engineers have examined the geometry and physics of the key, ignition switch and steering column of the GM vehicles, and they have reviewed GM's testing data. "NHTSA is satisfied that for now, until the permanent remedy is applied, the safety risk posed by the defect in affected vehicles is sufficiently mitigated by GM's recommended action," the letter says.

The safety agency, which is part of Foxx's department, has taken measures above and beyond normal procedures in the GM case, Foxx wrote.

The recalled cars include mainly Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions that are no longer being made. □

Financial oversight council warns of lingering weak spots and new risks

ANNIE LOWREY

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Some of the same weaknesses that contributed to the disastrous 2008 financial crisis persist today, the Financial Stability Oversight Council said in its 2014 annual report to Congress.

The report, released Wednesday, highlights what it called "the considerable progress we have collectively made to improve the strength and resiliency of the financial sector." But Janet L. Yellen, the chairwoman of the Federal Reserve, said at Wednesday's open meeting of the council, "Our job is not done. We must continue our collective efforts to monitor risks, address vulnerabilities and build a stronger and safer financial system."

The "chief accomplishment" in recent years has been the improvement in big bank holding companies' balance sheets, Yellen said, adding that the Federal Reserve's stress tests have "provided a level of confidence in our assessment of how financial institutions would fare" in another downturn.

The oversight council - made up of the heads of the Treasury, Fed and other regulators - also cited the completion of the so-called Volcker rule restricting certain firms from making bets with their own money, as well as new rules on bank capital, leverage ratios and swaps markets.

The perception that big, interconnected financial firms might be "too big to fail" persists, the report warns. The markets where many banks look for short-term cash loans remain potential weak spots, too.

"The risk of fire sales continues to be a major source of financial instability in the tri-party repo market," the report said, referring to a market for short-term loans. "No single regulator has an ability to support orderly liquidations across all investors in the market. Market participants will be critically important in defining a solution to this collective action problem."

On top of those concerns, sharp increases in interest rates might hit firms that have soaked up riskier assets on the cheap in the past few years.

The report also notes that there has been no progress in overhauling the housing finance market, with lawmakers loath to touch Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in part because the entities, which were taken over by the government during the financial crisis to prevent them from failing, are currently returning tens of billions of dollars to the Treasury.

"Access to mortgage credit remains unnecessarily tight," Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew said at the council's meeting.

"The housing finance system needs fundamental reform." This uncertainty about the future shape of the system was holding back a broader housing recovery, he added.

The markets also might remain overly reliant on a global benchmark interest rate, known as Libor, that bank employees have been accused of manipulating.

There are potential new or emerging threats as well, the document warns. The nonbank mortgage servicers that collect fees on a growing number of home loans "are not currently subject to prudential standards such as capital, liquidity or risk management oversight."

Another potential risk is that some big asset managers are providing indemnification to securities lenders. But such asset managers are not required to set aside money to cover potential payouts, nor do they have banks' deposit funding base, the report noted. □



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US Financial Front:

America's consumer borrowing up \$17.5B in March

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers increased their borrowing in March by the largest amount in more than a year, using their credit cards and taking out more auto and student loans. Consumer borrowing increased \$17.5 billion in March, up from a gain of \$13 billion in February, the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday. It was the biggest monthly increase since a \$19.3 billion advance in February 2013.

The category that includes auto and student loans rose \$16.4 billion while the category that covers credit card borrowing increased \$1.1 billion.

The overall increase in consumer debt pushed total borrowing to a record \$3.14 trillion.

Gains in borrowing are seen as an encouraging sign that people are more

confident and willing to take on debt.

Increased household borrowing can fuel higher consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of

sizable decline of \$2.7 billion in February and likely reflected the pickup in retail sales in March.

The gain in borrowing for autos and student loans



Consumer credit cards are posed for a photo in North Andover, Mass. The Federal Reserve released encouraging consumer credit data for March 2014 on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

economic activity.

The rise in credit card borrowing in March followed a

had also been expected given that auto sales posted a solid gain in March.

Borrowing on credit cards plunged during the recession as consumers tried to lower their debt during a period when millions of people were losing their jobs and many people still working were worried about the threat of layoffs. Credit card borrowing started rising again in 2011 but the increases have lagged far behind the category that covers auto and student loans. Economists said that many households have become more cautious about taking on high-interest debt.

Credit card debt in March was still 16.2 percent below its peak reached in July 2008. Credit card debt stood at \$856.7 billion in March, up just 0.9 percent from a year ago.

The measure of auto loans and student loans in March stood at \$2.28 trillion, up 7.8 percent from a year ago. It

has been up for 31 consecutive months going back to September 2011.

A separate quarterly report on consumer credit done by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows that student loan debt has been the biggest driver of borrowing since the recession officially ended in June 2009. Deputy Treasury Secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin said last week that the large rise in student loan debt in recent years raised concerns about whether those participating in the program were getting the information they needed to avoid falling behind in their payments.

She said at the end of last year there were more than 40 million recipients of student loans and approximately \$1.1 trillion in student loan debt connected to federal student loan programs outstanding. □

US productivity fell at 1.7 percent rate in 1Q

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. productivity fell in the first quarter while labor costs rose, reflecting the economic slowdown caused at the start of the year by harsh winter weather.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that productivity declined at an annual rate of 1.7 percent in the January-March period, after growing at a 2.3 percent rate in last year's fourth quarter. "Special factors, namely the weather, are to blame," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

The falling productivity coupled with a slight increase

in hourly compensation led to labor costs rising 4.2 percent in the first quarter. Labor costs had fallen in the previous two quarters.

Economic growth stalled in the first three months of this year, increasing just 0.1 percent, according to initial estimates by the Commerce Department. Freezing temperatures and snow storms disrupted growth. Retail sales and factory output plunged in January, only to recover as the weather warmed.

The economy might even have shrunk 0.6 percent during the first quarter, the research firm Marcoeconomic Advisers said Tuesday after the release of

March trade data.

Productivity measures output per hour of work. Greater productivity should raise living standards because it enables companies to pay their workers more without having to increase prices, which could boost inflation. Despite the increase in labor costs last quarter, overall inflation remains mild.

The Federal Reserve tracks productivity and labor costs when setting interest rate policies. Fed officials have attempted to spur growth by keeping short-term interest rates at record lows, while at the same time, purchasing bonds to try to keep long-term rates down as well. □

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Fear of economic blow as birth rates drop

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nancy Strumwasser, a high school teacher from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, always thought she'd have two children.

But the layoffs that swept over the U.S. economy around the time her son was born six years ago helped change her mind. Though she and her husband, a market researcher, managed to keep their jobs, she fears they won't be so fortunate next time.

"After we had a kid in 2009, I thought, 'This is not happening again,'" says Strumwasser, 41, adding, "I never really felt comfortable about jobs, how solid they can be."

The financial crisis that followed the collapse of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers in 2008 did more than wipe out billions in wealth and millions of jobs. It also sent birth rates tumbling around the world as couples found themselves too short of money or too fearful about their finances to have children. Six years later, birth rates haven't bounced back.

For those who fear an overcrowded planet, this is good news. For the economy, not so good.

We tend to think economic growth comes from working harder and smarter. But economists attribute up to a third of it to more people joining the workforce each year than leaving it. The result is more producing, earning and spending. Now this secret fuel of the economy, rarely missing and little noticed, is running out.

"For the first time since World War II, we're no longer getting a tailwind," says Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist at BlackRock, the world's largest money manager. "You're going to create fewer jobs. ... All else equal, wage growth will be slower."

Births are falling in China, Japan, the United States, Germany, Italy and nearly all other European countries. Studies have shown that births drop when un-

employment rises, such as during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Birth rates have fallen the most in some regions that were hardest hit by the financial crisis.

In the United States, three-quarters of people surveyed by Gallup last year said the main reason couples weren't having more children was a lack of money or fear of the economy. The trend emerges as a key gauge of future economic

"It's like health — you only realize it exists until you don't have it," says Alejandro Macarron Larumbe, managing director of Demographic Renaissance, a think tank in Madrid.

The drop in birth rates is rooted in the 1960s, when many women entered the workforce for the first time and couples decided to have smaller families.

Births did begin rising in many countries in the new millennium. But then the fi-

just to replace people dying and keep populations constant.

Births might pick up again, of course. In France, where the government provides big subsidies and tax breaks for children, birth rates are back where they were in the early 1970s. In other countries, women who put off having children in the recession might play catch up soon, as they did after World War II. Demographers note that women



FILE - In this 1930 file photo, a nurse holds a baby in the nursery of the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. Five years after the deepest global recession since the 1930s sent birth rates plunging around the world, many couples are still not having children. That's good news if you're worried about an overcrowded planet. But it's bad for the economy.

(AP Photo/File)

health — the growth in the pool of potential workers, ages 20-64 — is signaling trouble ahead. This labor pool had expanded for decades, thanks to the vast generation of baby boomers.

Now the boomers are retiring, and there are barely enough new workers to replace them, let alone add to their numbers.

Growth in the working-age population has halted in developed countries overall. Even in France and the United Kingdom, with relatively healthy birth rates, growth in the labor pool has slowed dramatically. In Japan, Germany and Italy, the labor pool is shrinking.

financial crisis struck. Stocks and home values plummeted, blowing a hole in household finances, and tens of millions of people lost jobs. Many couples delayed having children or decided to have none at all.

Couples in the world's five biggest developed economies — the United States, Japan, Germany, France and the United Kingdom — had 350,000 fewer babies in 2012 than in 2008, a drop of nearly 5 percent. The United Nations forecasts that women in those countries will have an average 1.7 children in their lifetimes. Demographers say the fertility rate needs to reach 2.1

were having children later in life even before the crisis, and so births are likely to rise anyway.

But even a snapback in births to pre-recession levels will leave families much smaller than they were decades ago, a shift that has already affected industries and economies around the world.

In Japan, sales of adult diapers will exceed sales of baby diapers this year, according to Euromonitor International, a marketing research firm. In Germany and Italy, towns are emptying as families shrink and there aren't enough children to replace older ones who are dying. □

Key Facts On Falling Births

The Associated Press
Nearly six years after the financial crisis began reducing birth rates around the world, people still aren't having many babies. Fewer newborns mean fewer workers in the future producing things and spending.

A trend of smaller families had begun in the 1960s and is already hurting economies. The pool of potential workers — people ages 20-64 — had grown rapidly for decades. But now baby boomers are retiring, and there are barely enough new workers to replace them, let alone expand their numbers.

Here are some key facts about the demographic drag on growth:

WHY IT MATTERS: Without a continued surge in new workers, many economists argue that developed economies are unlikely to return to "normal" economic growth of 3 percent a year, the average over four decades. The U.S. economy is projected to grow an average 2.3 percent a year in the eight years beginning in 2017, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Other estimates are lower. Robert Arnett, chairman of Research Affiliates, thinks the U.S. and other rich countries are likely to grow no more than 1.5 percent a year, on average, over the next several decades.

HIT TO FAMILY INCOME: Slower economic growth will limit wage gains and make it hard for middle-class families to raise their living standards. One measure of living standards is already signaling trouble: Gross domestic product per capita — the value of goods and services a country produces per person — fell 1 percent in the five biggest developed countries from 2008 through 2012, according to the World Bank.

HIT TO WEALTH: All else being equal, companies won't make as much in profits in a slower-growing economy. □

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Brazen Islamic militant attack in Nigeria kills hundreds

MICHELLE FAUL
ANDREW MELDRUM
Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Islamic militants who have triggered international outrage over the kidnapping of more than 270 Nigerian schoolgirls opened fire on a busy marketplace, killing hundreds of people in a new spasm of violence in the country's northeast.

The attack escalates Nigeria's growing crisis from a campaign of bombings, massacres and abductions being waged by the Boko Haram terrorist network in its campaign to impose an Islamic state on Africa's most populous nation.

As many as 300 people were killed in the assault late Monday on the town of Gamboru Ngala on Nigeria's border with Cameroon. The extremists opened fire on a marketplace bustling with shoppers taking advantage of the cooler nighttime temperatures in the semi-desert region, then rampaged through the town for 12 hours, setting houses ablaze and shooting those who tried to escape.

The attack and hundreds of casualties were confirmed by Borno state information commissioner Mohammed Bulama, who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone Wednesday.

Nigerian federal Senator Ahmed Zannah blamed fighters of the Boko Haram terrorist network that has claimed responsibility for the April 15 kidnapping of 276 teenage girls from their boarding school in Chibok, in northeastern Borno state. The insurgents threatened to sell the young women into slavery in a video seen by AP.

Outrage over the missing girls and the government's failure to rescue them

brought angry Nigerian protesters into the streets this week in an embarrassment for the government of President Goodluck Jonathan, who had hoped to showcase the country's emergence as Africa's largest economy as it hosted the Africa meeting of the World Economic Forum, the continent's version of Davos.

Offers of international assistance have poured in, with the Obama administration announcing Tuesday it was sending personnel and equipment to help Nigerian security forces in their search for the girls in the vast Sambisa Forest. Jonathan confirmed that he has accepted the American assistance, which the Pentagon said Wednesday will help with communications, logistics and intelligence planning, but will not include any military operations.

Britain and China announced Wednesday that Nigeria has accepted their offers of help, and France said it was sending in a "specialized team" to help with search and rescue of the girls.

"In the face of such an appalling act, France, like other democratic nations, must react," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said. "This crime will not go unpunished."

Fabius gave no details, except to say the team was being drawn from forces already in the region. France has soldiers in Niger, Cameroon and Mali, where it is fighting Islamic insurgents, as well as in Central African Republic.

The kidnapping has ignited a viral social media campaign under the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls that has brought renewed attention to Boko Haram's

campaign of violence. On Wednesday, first lady Michelle Obama joined in, tweeting, "Our prayers are with the missing Nigerian

girls and their families. It's time to #BringBackOurGirls."

Boko Haram's 5-year-old Islamic uprising has claimed

the lives of thousands of Muslims and Christians, including more than 1,500 people killed in attacks so far this year. □



People walk past a damaged car following a bomb explosion in Abuja, Nigeria. Islamic militants who have triggered international outrage over the kidnapping of more than 270 Nigerian schoolgirls opened fire on a busy marketplace, killing hundreds of people in a new spasm of violence in the country's northeast.

(AP Photo / Gbemiga Olamikan)

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DE PALM TOURS

Irish minister quits in blow to government

S. POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland's justice minister resigned Wednesday in a surprise blow to the country's 3-year-old coalition government after a state-ordered investigation concluded that he mishandled the complaints of a police corruption whistleblower. Alan Shatter said in a letter he was quitting to ease criticism of the government when the more than 300-page report is published later this week.

Prime Minister Enda Kenny, who received the report Tuesday night, announced the news to the audible gasps of lawmakers in Ireland's parliament. Many opposition politicians had called for Shatter to resign, but it's rare in Ireland for any politician to quit in the face of scandal.

Kenny said he accepted Shatter's resignation "with regret," but said the report had found that Shatter responded inadequately to complaints of police corruption made by a serving officer, Maurice McCabe. Ireland's police commander, Martin Callinan, resigned in March over the same scandal. Shatter was regarded as Kenny's most intelligent, hard-working and reform-minded minister. But he suffered from unpopularity due, at least in part, to a perceived holier-than-thou manner and refusal to apologize for mistakes. Even in his lengthy resignation letter, Shatter admitted no wrongdoing and instead slated the report as biased and incomplete. He noted that the investigator, lawyer Sean Guerin, didn't interview him and should have, and also had failed to obtain any documents from Ireland's police complaints watchdog, a central protagonist in the subject under investigation.

Shatter was accused of defending Ireland's police force at the expense of both the watchdog agency and McCabe. □

South Africans vote as Zuma seeks another term

Norimitsu Onishi

© 2014 New York Times

MARIKANA, South Africa — Voters cast ballots across South Africa on Wednesday after a long campaign season that betrayed the governing African National Congress party's internal cracks, highlighted

at polling stations, less to choose from a long list of parties than to pronounce judgment on the ANC, the liberation movement that has governed since the end of apartheid in 1994 but has become mired in corruption scandals in recent years. If the polls

brutal display of force by the authorities in the post-apartheid era, voters began lining up at 2 a.m. at the Marikana Combined School.

By 7 a.m., the queue stretched out of the school grounds and snaked around a column of trees;

the "born free" generation, made up of those born since 1994 with no direct experience of apartheid, was able to vote.

It was also the first election since Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president and the party's revered leader, died in December. The ANC and its allies used his memory to appeal to older voters.

"They took us from the darkness into the light - how could I vote for any other party?" said Nomanesi Zikolo, 45, a single mother of two, referring to the ANC's role not only in liberating blacks but also in providing her home with electricity for the first time in 1999.

The main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, is expected to do better than in the 2009 election.

Focusing on the need to create jobs, the Democratic Alliance has widened its appeal beyond its traditional core of white South Africans by drawing in middle-class blacks and campaigning in black townships.

Zuma voted at a polling station in a schoolroom in Nkandla. He described the campaign as "very challenging," but said, "The results will be very good."

Full official results are not expected before Friday or possibly Saturday. □



South African President Jacob Zuma speaks at the African National Congress' final rally before elections in Johannesburg. Party supporters filled the FNB Stadium where Zuma spoke on Sunday ahead of the fourth national election since apartheid, on Wednesday, May 7.

(Joao Silva/The New York Times)

President Jacob G. Zuma's deepening unpopularity and hinted at a realignment of the nation's politics in the years ahead.

Hours before voting began at 7 a.m., South Africans lined up by the hundreds

prove correct, the ANC will steamroll to another victory, though with fewer votes than in the past.

Here in Marikana, a platinum mining town where police killed 34 striking miners in 2012 in the most

most of the voters, some wearing sweaters and wool hats in the autumn chill, live in a nearby squatters' camp of tin shacks.

The fifth general election in a democratic South Africa, it was the first time that

Vietnamese navy confronts Chinese ships in oil rig dispute

GERRY MULLANY

DAVID BARBOZA

© 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG — Tensions in the South China Sea intensified Wednesday as Vietnamese vessels confronted Chinese ships that were working to place an oil rig off Vietnam's coast, and Vietnamese officials claimed that their ships had been rammed by the Chinese vessels.

Vietnam said the Chinese ships also fired water cannons at its flotilla in the encounter, injuring Vietnamese sailors, although Chinese officials did not confirm the incident. The skirmishing highlighted the hair-trigger tensions in the

region as Asian nations try to contain China's more aggressive posture in pursuing maritime claims in the South China Sea.

"On May 4, Chinese ships intentionally rammed two Vietnamese Sea Guard vessels," Tran Duy Hai, a Foreign Ministry official, told a news conference in Hanoi. "Chinese ships, with air support, sought to intimidate Vietnamese vessels. Water cannon was used." The confrontation occurred just days after the Chinese state oil company Cnooc stationed the oil rig 120 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, in waters claimed by China and Vietnam. The placement of the

rig led to protests and demands by Vietnam that it be withdrawn, and the deployment of a Vietnamese naval flotilla to the area.

China's state councilor, Yang Jiechi, rebutted the criticisms in a telephone call Tuesday with Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh of Vietnam. Yang said the rig was operating within Chinese waters, but Minh told the Chinese diplomat during the call that Vietnam would "take all suitable and necessary measures" to protect its rights and interests, according to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

The incident is the latest chapter in territorial dis-

putes involving China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia. Taiwan also claims swaths of the ocean. The disputes themselves are not new, but an increasingly powerful China with new military capabilities to reinforce its claims has caused ripples in the region over the last few years. China claims expansive areas of the sea, encompassed in a "nine-dash line" map that critics have said has no basis in international law.

In another flare-up, authorities in the Philippines have detained the crew of a Chinese fishing vessel in a disputed area of the South China Sea, officials said. □



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Report: plane landed long in Jamaica crash

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— An investigation into a plane accident almost five years ago at a Jamaican airport has concluded that an American Airlines jet flying in from Miami botched the landing and the flight crew may have been fatigued.

On Dec. 22, 2009, an American Airlines plane overshot a rain-drenched runway at the seaside Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and split apart after plowing through a perimeter fence and skidding across a road. The Boeing 737-823 came to rest on sand dunes and rocks a short distance from the waters of the Caribbean Sea. The jetliner was destroyed, its fuselage broken into three sections and the right wing's tanks spilling jet fuel. All 154 people aboard survived, but 14 had serious injuries, though not life-threatening.

The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority issued its final report on the incident this week, posting it on the agency's website Tuesday. "The investigation involved a number of very involved processes," agency spokeswoman Ava Marie Ingram said Wednesday in explaining why it took the aviation authority so long to issue its conclusions.

Among other findings, the report said the experienced flight crew decided to land in heavy rain on a wet runway with a tail wind close to the landing limit. They were not aware of a standing water warning for the airport's runways in manuals, the investigation found. □

Brazil federal police threaten World Cup strike

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Federal police on Wednesday threatened to stage a nationwide strike during the monthlong World Cup if Brazil's government doesn't increase their pay and improve working conditions.

Officers held a protest rally outside the Rio de Janeiro concert hall where national team coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was announcing his roster for the soccer tournament, which begins June 12.

About 50 protesters covered their mouths with red scarves and held banners. They stood next to a life-size inflatable white elephant to complain about the high costs that the World Cup has brought to a country still struggling with deficient public services.

"We gave all possible deadlines," said Andre Vaz de Mello, president of the federal police union. "If we don't see a government response to change things,



Federal police protest for better labor conditions outside the venue where Brazil's coach is announcing his squad for the upcoming World Cup where they placed a white elephant doll symbolizing public waste that reads in Portuguese "No police investigation. 96% inefficiency" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Federal police are threatening to go on strike during the international soccer tournament if their demands are not met.

(AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

we will stop working during the World Cup."

At Rio's famed Copacabana Beach, other protest-

ers lined up soccer balls with red and black crosses on the sand, showing photos of victims who have

been killed or injured in gunfights in the city's supposedly "pacified" slums. □

Argentina:

Carmakers suspending staff as sales plunge

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentine automakers are reducing production and suspending factory workers as sales plunge because of a gathering storm of economic trouble.

Most Argentine cars are exported to Brazil, where sales are down in a slowing economy. Meanwhile, a 23-percent peso devaluation so far this year puts cars with foreign parts out of reach for many Argentines. New taxes imposed by President Cristina Fernan-

dez have made many cars even more expensive, and there's less credit available due to Argentine banking rules. A grim report from Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday shows Argentina's economic woes go beyond the leading automotive industry. Most of the Argentine companies Moody's rates face a high risk of a liquidity crisis, with "significant debt coming due in the next 24 months, limited cash in relation to upcoming debt maturities, sizable negative free cash flow, a lack of access to committed bank credit fa-

cilities, or some combination of these factors," the ratings service said.

Union chief Antonio Calo said Wednesday that he's hoping trade talks between Brazil and Argentina will protect the industry. He spoke out after Fiat's truck-making subsidiary Iveco said it is suspending about 700 workers, and Peugeot-Citroën announced suspensions of 1,000 workers until sales catch up with production. The Peugeot-Citroën workers at the Villa Bosch factory outside the capital will get 65 percent of their pay until produc-

tion resumes, the company said. Union leaders worry that Argentina's General Motors factory may be next, because it exports 79 percent of its production to Brazil, where currency changes have made Argentine cars more expensive. Argentina's overall industrial production is down 3.1 percent this year, and much of the downturn involves the auto industry, whose production is down 16 percent this quarter compared to the year before, according to a report by the Management & Fit consultancy. □

After EU ban: Indians feast on top-quality mangoes

MANISH MEHTA
Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Indians are feasting on some of the world's most succulent mangoes after the European Union banned imports of the fruit from India this month, producing a glut and rock-bottom prices for local consumers. Starting May 1, the EU

selling for 150-550 rupees (\$2.50-\$9) a kilogram, about \$2-3 below prices last week. And sellers say they expect the prices to fall even further.

Mangoes start arriving in Indian markets in April, providing a juicy, delicious respite from summer temperatures and humidity as they start climbing to op-

and now I am seeing the same quality here."

But the EU ban is likely to disappoint legions of Indian mango fans in Britain, an EU member nation where the fruit has become popular not only in the substantial Indian community but also among foodies who look forward to the 10-week Alphonso



In this Tuesday, May 6, 2014 photo, an Indian vendor talks to a customer as Alphonso mangoes are displayed at a whole sale market in Mumbai, India. Starting May 1, the EU banned imports of Indian mangoes including the Alphonso, considered the king of all the mango varieties available in South Asia. The ban was implemented because a large number of shipments were contaminated with fruit flies. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

banned imports of Indian mangoes including the Alphonso, considered the king of all the mango varieties grown in South Asia, because a large number of shipments were contaminated with fruit flies. The pests are considered a threat to crops grown in Europe.

"Those jittery Europeans have taken fright at some fruit flies in our mango exports, flies which they fear will wreak havoc on their tomatoes and cucumbers," the Times of India wrote in a gleeful editorial. "Imagine sacrificing the king of fruits for salad!" For years, the Alphonso mangoes had been out of the reach of most Indians as the best of the fruit was shipped to the supermarkets of Europe and other parts of the world where it commanded a premium price.

In Mumbai, the capital of the main Alphonso growing region, the fruit is now

pressive levels.

Piles of mangoes are cooled in refrigerators or buckets of ice-cold water or pureed to create refreshing drinks that cut through the scorching heat.

The Alphonso, with its golden yellow flesh and distinct aroma, is a favorite and is especially prized because the best varieties are either exported or prohibitively expensive.

This year, however, the stores in the crowded lanes of Mumbai's Crawford market are piled high with crates and baskets of perfectly ripe Alphonso.

Deepak Kanulkar and his family are now gorging on the delicious fruit.

"There is difference in the size and texture. The moment you touch it, you feel the difference. When you cut it, you get this aroma which fills the room. The taste is definitely superior," he said.

"I have had these mangoes while living abroad

mango season, said Jenny Linford, known for her London Food Chronicles blog. She said the Alphonso mango has a unique texture, aroma and flavor unmatched by other varieties.

"They are valued and celebrated," she said.

She said mangoes found in British supermarkets are often dreadful, rock hard and with little flavor, while mangoes sold in smaller Indian markets are extremely tasty and less expensive.

"The ban has serious implications for Asian green grocers in London," she said. Monica Bhandari, whose family business Fruity Fresh depends on the short Alphonso mango season, is petitioning the British government to overturn the ban. So far, however, the "e-petition" she has posted on the government website has not attracted enough electronic signatures to force a government review. □

Sanctions meant to rattle Russia take bite in Europe

LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Sanctions against Russia are taking a toll in Europe as well, figures showed Wednesday, as a top U.S. official negotiated potential new economic punishment for the Kremlin's incursion into Ukraine. Treasury Undersecretary David Cohen, in Paris as part of the Obama administration's push to bolster European support for broader sanctions, acknowledged that the measures are also inflicting pain on companies in the United States and especially Europe, whose banks and energy firms have deep Russian interests. "This is not cost-free for anybody, including the United States. We don't deny the reality that there's more exposure overall in Europe," Cohen told reporters. But, he said, the stakes were high after Russia's takeover of the Crimean Peninsula and the weeks of unrest in eastern Ukraine that have followed. Cohen would not specify what could trigger new sanctions, but said a recent executive order would allow the U.S. to target Russian companies in specific economic sectors.

He also said the U.S. and Europe were committed to ensuring that Ukraine's May 25 presidential elections take place without interference.

"We are looking to design the sanctions in a way that maximizes the impact of those we're trying to affect while minimizing the collateral impact," Cohen said. Russia's economic slowdown predates the sanctions but appears to have accelerated. Investors pulled about \$60 billion out of the country in the first quarter of the year — more than in all of 2013 — and the economy is contracting. The ruble has fallen to record lows, cutting the value of revenues and investments made by foreign companies.

The effect is rippling through some of Europe's largest companies.

French bank Societe Generale said Wednesday that the declining ruble and economic uncertainty forced the write-down of 525 million euros (\$731 million) on its Russian activities, which include a 92.4 percent stake in Rosbank.

BP, which has a 20 percent stake in Russia's largest oil producer, Rosneft, is facing even more complications. Rosneft's CEO is targeted by U.S. sanctions, and BP last week said its earnings from the Rosneft stake fell sharply in the first quarter because of the sliding ruble.

And in Germany, factory orders plunged unexpectedly in March as the government warned that the crisis over Ukraine could add to underlying weakness among companies showing "temporary restraint in ordering activity due to current geopolitical events." In a sign that even smaller-scale companies are suffering, Danish brewer Carlsberg said uncertainty in its Russian market led to \$12.5 million in first-quarter losses, with the assumption that sales there would continue to contract.

Cohen said Russia's economic integration had costs and benefits, although he denied that European governments had been reluctant to impose more sanctions.

"The Russian people have seen the potential for engagement with the rest of the world," he said. But "it also adds complications in how we design our sanctions programs."

The U.S. has pressured senior American executives to skip an international economic forum in St. Petersburg, and Cohen said European governments share the view that attending "sends the wrong signal." □



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Frank!



ORANJESTAD – Aruba is known amongst other things as a honeymoon destination for numerous couples.

However, many couples choose Aruba to celebrate their wedding anniversaries as well.

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Robert & Geraldine Frank from New York visited the 'One Happy Island' of Aruba to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary!

Mr. and Mrs. Frank have visited the island over 30 times to spend their vacations both alone and with their children. They have so many reasons to return to Aruba, as they enjoy the friendliness of the locals, the culinary variety, the activities and the safety of the island, to mention a few.

This time, their stay was a very special one, as they celebrated their wedding anniversary with their 3 daughters at the Riu Palace Aruba Resort & Casino.

The Riu Palace made sure that their stay was an unforgettable one and the couple received different special gifts in honor of the occasion. Also, the Aruba Tourism Authority wished them a happy anniversary and a pleasant stay on our island. In the photos, the happy couple is seen with their gift basket and flowers, and enjoying another great visit to Aruba! □

At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa: Associates Prepare for the Next GM Challenge, Slated for July 5th



PALM BEACH - The associates of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa undertook an ambitious health and fitness program last year, which included a number of GM challenges, running and walking their way to weight-loss and personal fitness. The program, under the leadership of avid runner and athlete General Manager Mark Frances, featured a number of successful sporting events in 2013, and took off in 2014 with a race in the challenging terrain around the quaint Alto Vista church. As recently announced, on July 5th, 2014, another

race will unfold starting at the Bushiribana gold mine ruins, raising the bar on difficulty, with an 8 KM relay race for men, and a 4 KM relay race for women. A special ballroom event hosted by the executive assistant Lourdes Gietel Geerman introduced participants to the program planned. For the upcoming relay race, fast runners will be paired with their slower running peers, thus evening out the playing field and adding an important layer of collaboration, coaching and support to the event. The gathering in the ballroom took off with a special theme song dedicated to the races, titled "GM's Challenge". The song's thoughtful and intelligent lyrics were written by Gietel Geerman, and the composition was recorded by vocalist Rebecca dos Santos and professionally mixed by Jonathan Thiel, a popular local musician fondly known as Biggie Boy. As expected, General Manager Marc Francis



was completely surprised by the entertaining musical tribute and greatly satisfied with the enthusiastic for the race, as expressed by the participants.

Nunette Maduro, the resort's PR & Communication Executive will be inviting family members and press to come watch the race as it unfolds against the untamed landscape of Aruba's north-eastern coast, just before sunset on July 5th, 2014. The pairing of runners includes the following partners: Manuel Reyes & Orvin Croes, Mark Frances & Maikel Ras, Ru-

fino Rodriguez & Eleazer Clemencia, Mark Naber & John Lake, Juan Campuzano & Pablo Miranda, Dolph Paesch & Conriss Pericault Monte, Mike Croes & Elizair Pourier, Ranzinho Tromp & John Villar, Glenn Farro & Robert Di Vecchia, Randell Boekhouder & Sheldon Leuden, Jairo Maduro & Kenrick Croes, Gabriel Reyes & Elton Trezil, Francis Wolff & Aldrick Tromp, Raymond Habibe & Marc

Charley, Steve Lacle & Sandrick Tromp. The following are the women pairs: Sofia Boekhoudt & Audrey Wolff, Erica Alvarez & Solange Silvanie, Brigitte Hernandez & Marilu Erasmus, Stella Correa & Esperanza Castillo, Thelma Franken & Patricia Alexander, Joan Hodge & Aura Reed, Norma Lacle & Elizabeth Cordoba, reports Nunette Maduro, the resort's PR & Communication Executive. □

Vivian and Jennifer honored at the Paradise Beach Villas



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very lovely ladies, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mrs. Vivian Mitchell and her daughter Jennifer Mitch-

ell from Leesburg, Virginia. Vivian and Jennifer are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, shopping and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Milca Erasmus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

**Beauty
On The
Beach**

Claudia Santelli

She is from
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Venezuela.
Her first time
in Aruba
and she is staying
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When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

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The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



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Serena Williams from US returns the ball to Shuai Peng from China during a Madrid Open tennis tournament match, in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday May 7, 2014.
Associated Press

Serena Williams, Nadal cruise to Madrid 3rd round

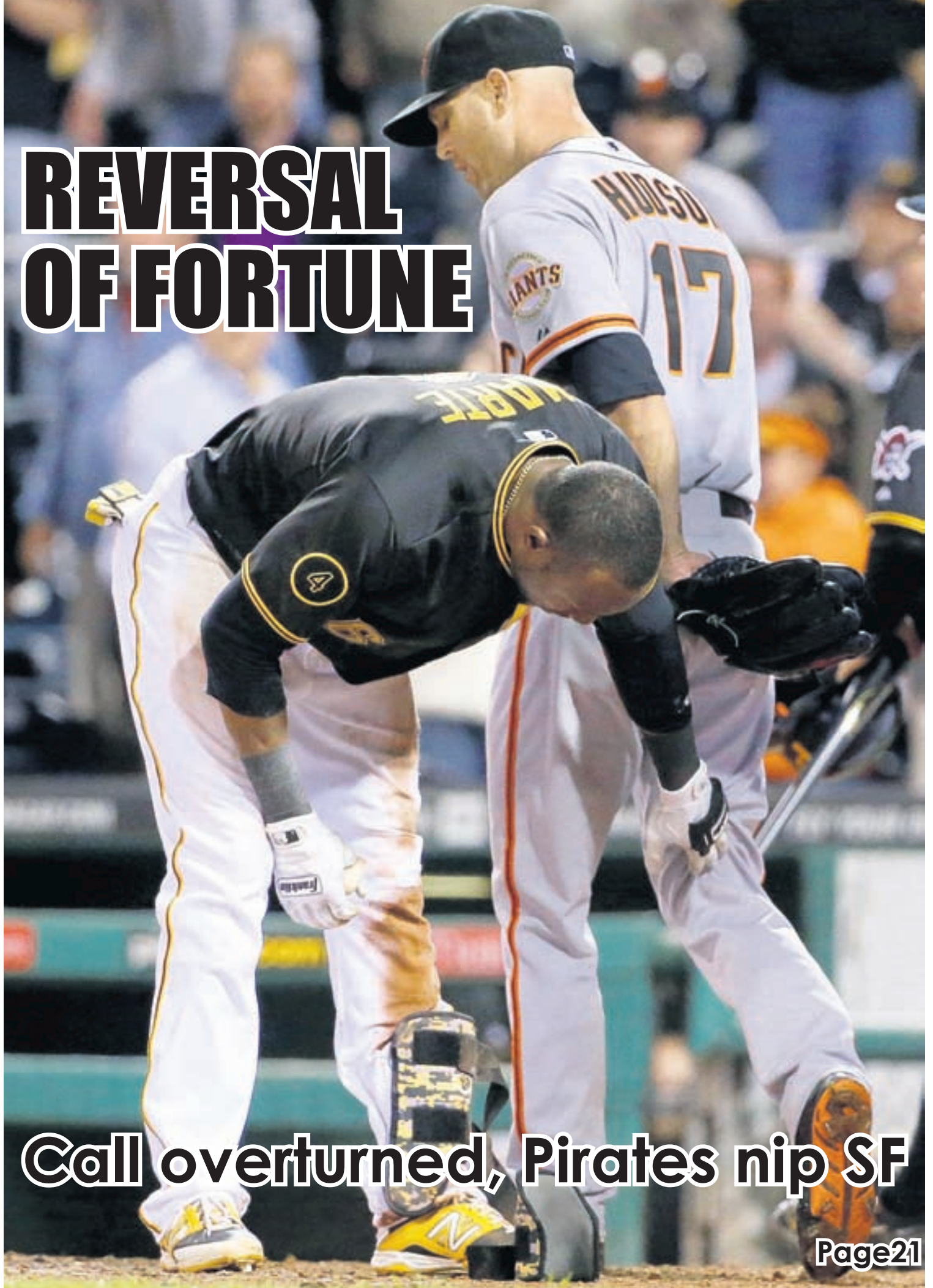
PAUL LOGOTHETIS
AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal breezed into the Madrid Open third round with their title defenses facing little strain on Wednesday, while Andy Murray made a successful return to clay after nearly a year's absence. Williams broke Shuai Peng three times in a 6-2, 6-3 win that was her 14th straight on the clay of the Magic Box tennis center, where the top-seeded American dominated her Chinese opponent on serve by firing 11 aces. Williams, who moves on to face Spanish player Carla Suarez Navarro, looked fresh and focused while dismissing any injury fears despite a heavily wrapped left leg.

"I just had some issues and went preventive to make sure I didn't make anything worse," said Williams. "I'm literally taking it one day, one match at a time, and not putting any pressure on myself."

Continued on Next Page

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE



Call overturned, Pirates nip SF

Page 21

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Hudson (17) walks past Pirates' Starling Marte after Marte was called out at home after hitting a triple off Hudson and attempting to score on a throwing error by Giants second baseman Ehire Adrianza in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.
Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Heat and Spurs win 2nd-round series openers

MIAMI (AP) — Defending champion Miami and perennial power San Antonio asserted their claims to the NBA title with authoritative wins on Tuesday in the opening games of their NBA second-round playoff series.

Miami was too good for its bogey team Brooklyn, beating the Nets 107-86, while San Antonio led from start to finish in beating Portland 116-92.

LeBron James scored 22 points and Ray Allen added 19 as Miami remained undefeated this postseason.

Brooklyn had beaten the Heat narrowly in all four of their previous meeting this season.

Chris Bosh scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Dwyane Wade finished with 14 points and Mario Chalmers had 12 for Miami, which recorded at least one regular-season win against every team except Brooklyn, losing four times by a total of 12 points.

Deron Williams and Joe Johnson scored 17 points each for the Nets, who got only eight from Paul Pierce and no points from Kevin Garnett in 16 minutes.



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, drives around Portland Trail Blazers' LaMarcus Aldridge (12) to score during the first half of Game 1 of a Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series, Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in San Antonio.
Associated Press

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday night. A 24-9 run in the third quarter blew things open for the Heat, who hadn't

played in eight days after sweeping Charlotte in the opening round. James finished 10 for 15 from the field and Allen — who had

never faced his former Boston "Big 3" compatriots Pierce and Garnett in the playoffs — was 4 of 7 in 3 pointers.

Miami's lead was 55-52 early in the third quarter after a 3-pointer by Williams, and every indication was that the Heat and Nets — who played three one-point games and a double-overtime affair in the regular season — were heading down to the wire again. San Antonio's Tony Parker had 33 points and nine assists as the Spurs bullied a younger Portland and won 116-92.

Kawhi Leonard had 16 points and Tim Duncan added 12 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio. More importantly for the Spurs, their bench contributed mightily after being virtually non-existent in the series against Dallas.

Marco Belinelli had 19 points and the Australian connection of Aron Baynes and Patty Mills had 10 points apiece.

The Spurs had their most complete game of the postseason, playing with the flair and fluidity that resulted in the league's best regular season record.

Portland, meanwhile,

didn't come close to resembling the confident and sharp-shooting group that upset Houston in the opening round.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 32 points and 14 rebounds and Damian Lillard had 17 points for Portland, but the All-Star duo combined for just 17 points in the first half as San Antonio built a 26-point lead.

Duncan left the game with 4 minutes remaining in the first quarter after picking up two quick fouls, but the Spurs increased their lead in his absence thanks to big bench contributions.

Baynes had an immediate impact after playing only the final 6 minutes of San Antonio's Game 7 victory over Dallas. He scored four points quickly and continued the physical defense against Aldridge that Splitter established.

Belinelli finished 3 for 5 from 3-point range, leading the Spurs' bench to leap to their feet in loud celebration after the Italian guard's struggles in the opening series. After going just 4 for 7 on 3-pointers against Dallas, Belinelli opened the game by hitting his first three attempts from long range. □

Madrid

Continued from Previous Page

Nadal, meanwhile, certainly fed his confidence with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Juan Monaco of Argentina, just what the top-seeded Spaniard needed after coming to the Spanish capital on his worst clay run in a decade.

Nadal, the greatest ever player on the red surface, failed to advance past the quarterfinals of his last two clay tournaments. But after Monaco broke to get to within 2-1, Nadal did not relent as he didn't drop another game at Manolo Santana center court.

"Each victory helps to raise your confidence," Nadal said. "I started a little nervously in my movement. I think I moved better and played well, better than I

normally play on the clay. I was dominating over the points and playing very well.

"I think I've done positive things."

Nadal's hopes of winning a second clay event after his triumph in Rio de Janeiro this year were bolstered on Tuesday when Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka lost and Roger Federer withdrew for the birth of his second set of twins. Second-ranked Novak Djokovic was absent to injury.

"I didn't even get to the necessary round to face them at the last tournaments," said Nadal, dismissing his chances despite the marquee absences. "Every rival is difficult."

Nadal, who faces Jarkko Nieminen of Finland next, could be on course to



Rafael Nadal from Spain returns the ball during a Madrid Open tennis tournament match against Juan Monaco from Argentina, in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

Associated Press

meet Murray in the semifinals after the Scot overcame Nicolas Almagro in a 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 victory.

Murray, who won the event in 2008 when it was held on hardcourt, hadn't played on clay since Rome last year but looked at ease in taking the first

set.

But Almagro rallied to force a deciding set, which Murray won when his Spanish opponent slapped a backhand wide down the line for a 39th unforced error.

Also, Tomas Berdych moved to a perfect 11-0

against Kevin Anderson following his 6-1, 6-4 win over the South African, while American John Isner was also victorious in his second round match.

Eleventh-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Colombian player Santiago Giraldo, who was coming off his appearance in the Barcelona final.

In other women's results, third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and No. 4 Simona Halep of Romania both advanced, while Roberta Vinci of Italy knocked out Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 6-3.

Andy Murray returns to the clay for the first time in nearly one year later Wednesday against Nicolas Almagro. David Ferrer, the next highest remaining seed after Nadal at No. 5, faces John Isner. □

Canadiens, Wild have NHL playoff wins

MONTREAL (AP) — P.K. Subban, Dale Weise and Lars Eller each had a goal and an assist as the Montreal Canadiens beat the Boston Bruins 4-2 on Tuesday to take the lead in their NHL Eastern Conference semifinal. The Canadiens are up 2-1 with Game 4 set for Thursday in Montreal.

In the day's other playoff, Erik Haula and Mikael Granlund scored goals less than 3 minutes apart early in the third period as the Minnesota Wild recovered from a sluggish start for a 4-0 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Subban, the 2013 Norris trophy winner as the NHL's top defenseman, has two points in each of the three games of the series and 11 points in seven playoff games so far.

Tomas Plekanec also scored for the Canadiens,

who were outplayed for long stretches but made the most of quick-strike attacks, while Carey Price made 26 saves.

Patrice Bergeron and Andrej Meszaros scored for the Bruins, who outshot Montreal 28-26.

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Ilya Bryzgalov made 19 saves for his first shutout in the playoffs in eight years as the Blackhawks had their series lead whittled to 2-1 with their first loss in 2½ weeks. Zach Parise sealed the win with a power-play goal, the first in 25 chances for the Wild over their last two playoff series against the Blackhawks. Then Granlund tacked on an empty-netter with 1:17 left. Game 4 is Friday in Minnesota.

Corey Crawford stopped only 14 shots for the Blackhawks, who dropped their first two games to St. Louis in the last round before



Montreal Canadiens' P.K. Subban, left, scores past Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask during the first period in Game 3 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series, Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in Montreal. Associated Press

winning four in a row. Since losing to the Blues on April 19, they took the lead in all six games and outscored their opponents 23-9.

The announced atten-

dance of 19,416 was the most in club history, but the atmosphere didn't match that until shortly after the second intermission. Pucks were whizzing way wide

of the net, and clogged shooting lanes led to plenty of thwarted opportunities for both sides. Then Haula finally brought the fans to their feet. □

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Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera hits a solo-home run off Houston Astros pitcher Brett Oberholtzer in the first inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Miguel Cabrera homered for his first of four hits and four RBIs, Robbie Ray gave up one run in his debut and the Detroit Tigers routed the Houston Astros 11-4 Tuesday night for their season-high seventh straight win. Houston, which has the worst record in the majors, lost its fourth in a row and sixth in seven games. Ray (1-0) gave up one run, five hits, a walk and struck out five in 5 1-3 innings in his first game in the majors. Brett Oberholtzer (0-6) allowed four runs on nine hits,

two sacrifice flies and a walk over six innings. **INDIANS 4, TWINS 2** **CLEVELAND (AP)** — Josh Tomlin earned his first major league win since 2012, pitching into the seventh inning and leading the Indians past the Twins. Tomlin (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings. He was called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game after missing most of last year while recovering from Tommy John surgery. Tomlin struck out four, walked one and won for

Cabrera homers as Tigers top Astros 11-4

the first time since July 5, 2012, with the Indians. He had his elbow operation the next month. The right-hander took a two-hit shutout into the seventh before Chris Colabello homered.

Samuel Deduno (0-2) allowed four runs in five innings in his first start of the season.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Ryan Flaherty and Nick Markakis both drove in a run after a power outage in the eighth inning and the Orioles beat the Rays.

The 19-minute delay came after a series of lights went out at Tropicana Field. The outage was soon after Steve Clevenger's one-out double off Joel Peralta (1-2) put runners on second third.

After Steve Pearce walked, an RBI single by Flaherty and Markakis' run-scoring grounder gave Baltimore the two-run lead.

Tampa Bay pulled even at 3 when Ben Zobrist hit a sacrifice fly off Darren O'Day (1-0) in the seventh.

YANKEES 4, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Brian Roberts hit a tiebreak-

ing solo homer in the ninth inning, and the Yankees beat the Angels 4-3 for just their second victory in seven games.

Roberts had an early RBI single before he connected with two outs against Ernesto Frieri (0-3), putting his first homer with his new club into the elevated right field stands at Angel Stadium. Mike Trout tripled and scored the tying run on Albert Pujols' two-out single off Shawn Kelley (1-2) in the eighth inning for the Angels, who had won five of seven on their nine-game homestand.

Alfonso Soriano had an RBI single in the eighth inning for the Yankees.

David Robertson pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

MARINERS 8, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Rookie Roenis Elias struck out six while pitching into the seventh to win consecutive starts for the first time, Justin Smoak drove in three runs and the Mariners beat the Athletics for their season-best fourth straight victory.

Smoak hit an RBI double and Dustin Ackley an RBI single in the first to back

Elias (3-2), who followed up a 10-strikeout gem at Yankee Stadium his last time out with another impressive start.

The Mariners jumped on Jesse Chavez (2-1) to take a quick first-inning lead for the second straight game against the A's — and Seattle scored all three of its first-inning runs with two outs on the way to its ninth win in 11 games overall.

INTERLEAGUE

RED SOX 4, REDS 3, 12 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP) — Grady Sizemore lined one off the Green Monster to score the game-winning run in the 12th inning and the Red Sox beat the Reds.

It was the longest game between the two teams since the Red Sox won Game 6 of the 1975 World Series on Carlton Fisk's 12th-inning homer.

Craig Breslow (1-0) pitched one inning of scoreless relief for the win.

Logan Ondrusek (0-2) took the loss. He pitched a scoreless 11th but gave up singles to David Ortiz and Mike Napoli before Sizemore hit a liner off the left field Wall. □

Football player Sam wins Arthur Ashe Courage Award

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Sam, the U.S. college football player who is likely to become the first openly gay player in the National Football League, has been selected the winner of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award.

Sam, who likely will be drafted by an NFL team this weekend, will receive the award given to individuals who transcend sports at the 2014 ESPYs on July 16. The award is named after the late tennis star who became an early campaigner for AIDS awareness.

The Missouri defensive end, who is SEC Defensive Player of the Year, has announced that he is gay.



Missouri's All-American defensive end Michael Sam claps during the Cotton Bowl trophy presentation at halftime of an NCAA college basketball game between Missouri and Tennessee in Columbia, Mo.

Associated Press

ESPN is honoring Sam for "his courage and honesty that resonates beyond

sports."

Sam said he was honored to receive the award. "You

know I don't think there is anything courageous I did. I look forward to when we can live life in a world when gays don't have to come out in public," he said, adding that he has received support from athletes in all sports, "from football to basketball to softball to soccer, everyone."

"I am thrilled to be living in a time when you can be accepted for how you live."

Sam joins a prestigious list of winners ranging from Jim Valvano, the first recipient in 1995, to Muhammad Ali, Billie Jean King, Cathy Freeman, Nelson Mandela and Pat Summitt.

Ashe, the first black tennis player to win the singles title at Wimbledon, in 1975,

died in 1993 after contracting AIDS from a blood transfusion. After learning he had the disease, Ashe campaigned to raise awareness about AIDS.

"Arthur always believed in and practiced leading by example," said Ashe's widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe. "When Michael Sam announced that he is gay, he courageously stepped forward to engage an issue that still remains a pervasive problem in many professional sports. Michael has displayed true leadership both on and off the field."

Sam is one of eight children from Hitchcock, Texas. Two of his siblings have died and one disappeared and has not been found. □

Call overturned, Bucs walk off with a win

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Starling Marte was called out, then ruled safe on a replay review with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Pittsburgh Pirates over San Francisco 2-1 Tuesday night and ending the Giants' six-game winning streak.

It was 1-all when Marte tripped off the right-field wall against Tim Hudson. Marte slid into third, got up and bolted home when the relay from second baseman Ehire Adrianza skipped by third baseman Pablo Sandoval.

Sandoval recovered to throw home and plate umpire Quinn Wolcott initially ruled Marte was tagged by San Francisco catcher Buster Posey. A brief review showed Marte's right hand touched the plate before Posey tagged his chest.

Tony Watson (3-0) worked one inning. Marte scored both Pittsburgh runs and Ike Davis added two hits. Hudson (4-2) allowed two runs on five hits in 8 2-3 innings, striking out five and walking one.

MARLINS 3, METS 0

MIAMI (AP) — Henderson Alvarez pitched a six-hitter for his second shutout this season, and the Marlins won again at home, beating the Mets.

Miami improved to a major

league-best 16-5 at Marlins Park, and is 7-1 on its current homestand with one game left. They clinched the series and have won seven of their eight home series — the Marlins are 2-10 on the road.

Alvarez (2-2) struck out seven, walked none and threw 111 pitches. His only other victory this year was a complete-game 7-0 victory over Seattle on April 19.

He now has four career shutouts, including a no-hitter against Detroit on the final day of last season.

Casey McGehee had a pair of RBI singles.

Bartolo Colon (2-5) took the loss. He also went 0 for 2, striking out both times, leaving Mets pitchers at 0 for 56 this season with 30 strikeouts.

BRAVES 2, CARDINALS 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Justin Upton homered and scored the tiebreaking run on Chris Johnson's eighth-inning single, and the Braves beat the Cardinals to end their seven-game skid.

Braves right-hander Gavin Floyd was impressive in his season debut, allowing one run on six hits in seven innings.

Floyd made his first major league start since April 27, 2013, for the White Sox against Tampa Bay. He



After a play at the plate Pittsburgh Pirates' Starling Marte, right, turns to umpire Quinn Wolcott who makes the out call in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Associated Press

had season-ending Tommy John surgery 10 days later, and his comeback included six minor league rehab starts this year.

David Carpenter (2-0) had two strikeouts in a perfect eighth. Craig Kimbrel had two strikeouts in a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

St. Louis left-hander Tyler Lyons allowed only one run on four hits, including Upton's homer, in six innings.

DODGERS 8, NATIONALS 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Clayton Kershaw pitched seven shutout innings in his first outing since opening day,

and Hanley Ramirez and Drew Butera homered as the Dodgers defeated the Nationals.

Kershaw (2-0) was stubborn in his return after missing 32 games, allowing nine hits but striking out nine without a walk.

The two-time NL Cy Young winner had been on the disabled list for the first time in his career, sidelined by a strained back muscle after winning March 22 in the major league opener in Australia.

The Dodgers kept outfielder Yasiel Puig out for the sec-

ond straight game since he crashed into an outfield wall in the ninth inning Sunday at Miami.

Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals.

Blake Treinen (0-1), making his first major league start, allowed three unearned runs in five-plus innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, BREWERS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning after Miguel Montero had a tying single, rallying the Diamondbacks past the Brewers. □

Warriors fire coach Mark Jackson

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— The Golden State Warriors have fired Mark Jackson, ending the franchise's most successful coaching tenure in the past two decades but also one filled with drama and distractions. General manager Bob Myers thanked Jackson in a statement Tuesday for "his role in helping elevate this team into a better position than it was when he arrived nearly 36 months ago." Myers says it was a difficult decision but the Warriors "simply feel it's best to move in a different direction at this time."

Jackson's three seasons with the Warriors will be remembered for the way

he helped turn a perennially losing franchise into a consistent winner and the bold and bombastic way in which he did it.

He guaranteed Golden State would make the playoffs in his first season, when they finished 23-36 after the NBA labor lockout. The Warriors went 47-35 last season and had a memorable run to the second round of the playoffs, and they were 51-31 this season before losing to the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round.

The Warriors had not made the playoffs in consecutive years since the 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons. They had made the playoffs once in 17 years before Jackson.

Now the Warriors — with

the help of Jackson, Myers and an ownership group led by Joe Lacob — are in position to contend for several years behind a strong young core led by Stephen Curry. Jackson, a former NBA point guard who had his best seasons with the New York Knicks and Indiana Pacers, had never been a head coach at any level when Lacob hired him away from the ESPN/ABC broadcast table in June 2011. An ordained minister away from the court, Jackson often spoke of his Christian beliefs and promised to turn the Warriors into one of the NBA's best defensive teams and a perennial playoff contender — and he did. □



In this Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, Golden State Warriors head coach Mark Jackson instructs his team during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors fired Jackson on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Associated Press

Whirling Rooms

By: Dr Carlos Viana

With my eyes closed my airplane instructor twists and turns the plane so that it is not flying level. This is a classic "unusual attitude" training every pilot needs to repeat to stay a safe pilot. I groan as I fight to keep from vomiting my breakfast. "OK, open your eyes and straighten the aircraft", orders my instructor. I open my eyes to find my instructor has covered my airplane instruments. Not good my instincts scream. Facing out to sea I cannot tell the difference between sky and ocean and my brain is telling me we are turning left.

The seconds tick off as I try to adjust the aircraft to what I feel is going on. "Now", I say implying that I think I have control of the airplane to my instructor as he uncovers my airplane instruments. As I look at my instruments. I am headed into the ground turning slowly in a classic flying problem, called the "graveyard spiral".

I have done this maneuver before and I know that in a spinning cockpit I have to trust my instruments even though my sense of balance, coming from my middle ear is telling me different. I line up the plane according to my instruments and start feeling a sensation of whirling or tilting that causes a loss of balance, a dizziness that puts my stomach wanting to give up breakfast. "Vertigo", I complain as my instructor intently watches to make sure I have regained

composure of both the plane and myself.

Vertigo from Latin that means "whirling about" describes a medical condition in which somebody feels the sensation of dizziness with the room spinning. Dizziness is an indistinct term which describes a variety of conditions ranging from light-headedness, unsteadiness to vertigo and spans a large range of symptoms. These symptoms range from the most dramatic, vertigo, to the least severe, imbalance. Included in these feelings is fainting, which results in a loss of consciousness.

As a private pilot I know it is the sensory system located in the inner ear that helps the body to maintain balance. Balance in the human body is coordinated by the brainstem, which collects information from other parts of the brain and sensory organs throughout the body. The sensory organs that play critical roles relaying information to the brainstem include the skin, eyes, muscles and joints, and the vestibular system in the inner ear. Dizziness may result with dysfunction in any of these components or in the nerves that connect them.

French physician Prosper Mènière described Mènière's disease as having four particular symptoms: vertigo lasting for an hour or more, but less than 24 hours; ringing or buzzing sounds in the ear; feeling



of pressure or fullness in the ear; and some hearing loss. Some people are affected in both ears; others just one ear. Onset of Mènière's is sometimes related to stress. Regular medicine usually looks for problems with the inner ear for dizzy symptoms. However, most people that we see have been dizzy for more than a couple of days.

As a Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) physician I know the liver is involved in many problems with dizziness. The liver detoxifies our blood and an overworked liver produces a condition that we call "liver fire"; whose symptoms are dizziness, pain on the sides of the head at the temples, a sensation that you are choking, heart palpitations, and stomach upset. People with liver fire usually have a green hue around their mouths, wake up around 3:00am and get angry easily.

Lifestyle choices, including eating processed foods, taking pharmaceutical or other drugs, working or living with chemicals, bombardment of EMF's (electrometric fields) and not getting enough exercise all contribute to our toxic overload, making it impossible for our livers to

work efficiently.

Interestingly, historically this condition was known here in Aruba and was called "madder". TCM views a healthy Liver as "The General" who sends energy in the form of fluid to various parts of the body. If the General's "palace," the liver, is on fire, the chain of command is broken. Menstrual flow becomes heavy or "reckless" and menstrual problems; bladder and painful lower stomachs develop. Although, sexual desire drops, satisfying sexual activity is a great way to help "calm" the Liver. In our clinic we have found acupuncture treatments to be fantastic in improving a "hot" Liver, therefore helping dizzy symptoms. Milk Thistle, Astragalus root, Black Cohosh root, Don Quai Root, Red Clover and Rhodiola root as well as Evening Primrose Oil are beneficial herbs and oils for the liver. You improve liver function by slowing down alcohol consumption, exercising and eating natural food that is good for your metabolic type and prepare food that has not been fried, helps dramatically.

Get The Point! Modern life can affect our body's equilibrium, particularly because of the toxins we are exposed to every day in our air, water and food. Additionally, sedentary lifestyle, chemicals, medicines, electrometric fields from computers, electrical transformers and cell phone towers all affect our balance. The right diet, acupuncture and herbs can help our body regain control of the spinning

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CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.viana-heal.com

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Nintendo says no to virtual equality in life game

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nintendo isn't allowing gamers to play as gay in an upcoming life simulator game.

The publisher of such gaming franchises as "The Legend of Zelda" and "Mario Bros." said Tuesday it wouldn't bow to pressure to allow players to engage in romantic activities with characters of the same sex in English editions of "Tomodachi Life." This follows a social media campaign launched by fans last month seeking virtual equality for the game's characters, which are modeled after real people. "Nintendo never intended to make any form of social commentary with the launch of 'Tomodachi Life,'" Nintendo of America Inc. said in a statement. "The relationship options in the game represent a playful alternate world rather than a real-life simulation. We hope that all of our fans will see that 'Tomodachi Life' was intended to be a whimsical and quirky game, and that we were absolutely not trying to provide social commentary."

Tye Marini, a gay 23-year-old Nintendo fan from Mesa, Arizona, launched the campaign last month, urging Osaka, Japan-based Nintendo Co. and its subsidiary Nintendo of America Inc. to add same-sex relationship options to English versions of the hand-held Nintendo 3DS game.

The game was originally released in Japan last year and features a cast of Mii characters — Nintendo's personalized avatars of real players — living on a virtual island. Gamers can do things like shop, visit an amusement park, play games, go on dates and encounter celebrities like Christina Aguilera and Shaquille O'Neal.

"I want to be able to marry my real-life fiancé's Mii, but I can't do that," Marini said in a video posted online that attracted the attention of gaming blogs and online forums this week.

"My only options are to marry some female Mii, to change the gender of either my Mii or my fiancé's Mii or to completely avoid marriage altogether and miss out on the exclusive content that comes with it." "Tomodachi Life" has been a hit in Japan, where Nintendo said last December it had sold 1.83 million copies of the game. The English-language packaging for "Tomodachi Life" — "tomodachi" means "friend" in Japanese — proclaims: "Your friends. Your drama. Your life." A trailer for the game boasts that players can "give Mii characters items, voices and personalities, then watch as they rap, rock, eat doughnuts and fall in love." However, only characters of the opposite sex are actually able to flirt, date and marry in the game, which is set for release June 6 in North America and Europe.

"It's more of an issue for this game because the characters are supposed to be a representation of your real life," Marini said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "You import your personalized characters into the game. You name them. You give them a personality. You give them a voice. They just can't fall in love if they're gay."

The issue marks not only a cultural divide between Japan, where gay marriage is not legal, and North America and Europe, where gay marriage has become legal in some places, but also in the interactive world, where games are often painstakingly "localized" for other regions, meaning characters' voices and likenesses are changed to suit different locales and customs.

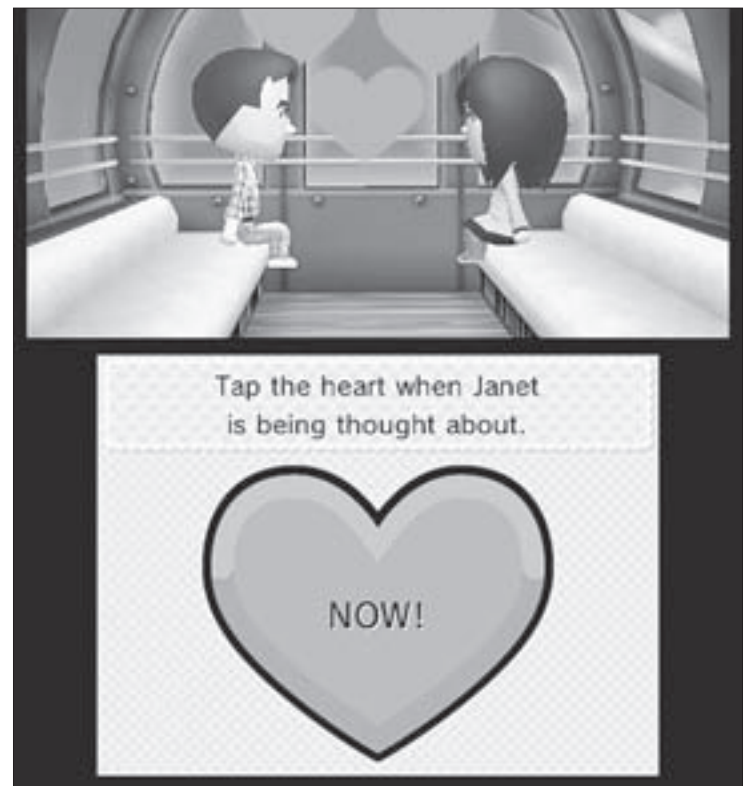
"The ability for same-sex relationships to occur in the game was not part of the original game that launched in Japan, and that game is made up of the same code that was used to localize it for other regions outside of Japan," Nintendo noted in an emailed statement.

While many English-language games don't fea-

ture gay characters, several role-playing series produced by English-speaking developers, such as "The Sims," "Fable" and "The Elder Scrolls," have allowed players to create characters that can woo characters of the same sex, as well as marry and have children. Other more narrative-driven games, like "Grand Theft Auto IV," "The Last of Us" and "Gone Home," have included specific gay, lesbian and bisexual characters.

"We have heard and thoughtfully considered all the responses," Nintendo said of the #Miiquality campaign. "We will continue to listen and think about the feedback. We're using this as an opportunity to better understand our consumers and their expectations of us at all levels of the organization."

Marini isn't calling for a boycott of "Tomodachi



This photo provided by Nintendo shows a screenshot from the video game, "Tomodachi Life." Associated Press

Life" but instead wants supporters to post on Twitter and Facebook with the hashtag #Miiquality, as well as write to Nintendo

and ask the company to include same-sex relationships in an update to "Tomodachi Life" or in a future installment. □

Tuneln adds way to hear 'recently started' songs



This Tuesday May 6, 2014 image shows the home screen of the iPhone app for the Internet radio service Tuneln. Associated Press

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) Tired of flipping through the radio dial? Internet radio service Tuneln is offering a way to see which songs have just started on 100,000 radio stations around the world, allowing you to listen in soon after the tune starts.

That's one of the new features of an update to Tuneln's app that went live Wednesday.

The service from Palo Alto, California-based Tuneln is not quite as good as on-demand listening, where you can hear just about any song in its entirety if you pay for a subscription to services like Spotify or Rhapsody.

But it's free with ads and gives you a way to find stations with real disc jockeys that are playing music you like.

You can even sometimes catch a song before it starts.

CEO John Donham says that's because Tuneln gets the song data from traditional radio stations, while the digital streams are fed to Tuneln a few seconds later.

After spending an hour or so testing a pre-release version of the updated app on an iPhone, I got a mix of songs starting anywhere from 20 seconds to more than a minute late.

A couple times, I began listening to the radio station well before the song began, so I could catch the whole thing. Sometimes a 30-second digital audio ad in most cases for GEICO car insurance made me miss more of the song than I would have otherwise.

Picking songs like Mumford & Sons' "I Will Wait" and David Bowie's "Let's Dance," I found myself tuning into stations based all over the place, such as Q-99 in Roanoke, Virginia, or Mix 105.3 in the Tri-Cities area of Washington state.

Tuneln, with 50 million active users a month, is similar to a raft of free radio services like Pandora and iHeart Radio, although it feels more like traditional radio because you get a heavy ad load by tuning directly into the on-air broadcast. Still, with a host of new social sharing features and the ability to follow stations, programs and podcasts, the revamped service is a nifty take on modern radio. □

Stock market climbs even as tech giants slide

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Soothing words from Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen helped pull the stock market out of a morning slump Wednesday. But Internet companies and Whole Foods Market plunged, taking the Nasdaq down. Traders dropped NetApp, salesforce.com and other tech companies for a second day running, sending their stocks down 2 percent or more. Whole Foods sank 19 percent after cutting its profit forecast. Yellen told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that a tough job market and weak inflation meant that the Fed will likely keep borrowing rates low for a "considerable time." As a result, she said, the economy still needed the Fed's help.

Yellen's comments appeared to ease concerns that the Fed was going to remove more support. The stock market had wandered lower in morning trading, then turned from a loss to a gain before the

lunch hour.

"I think the market breathed a sigh of relief that she wasn't going to unveil something new,"

index gained 10.49 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 1,878.21.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 117.52

up 13.09 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,067.67.

The S&P 500 index is within striking distance of its all-time closing high of 1,890



Trader Thomas Ferrigno, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Soothing words from Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen helped pull the stock market out of a morning slump Wednesday. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

said Jeff Kleintop, chief market strategist at LPL Financial.

The Standard & Poor's 500

points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,518.54.

The Nasdaq was the only major index to fall. It gave

reached on April 2.

"Whenever you're near all-time highs you're going to see skittishness," said JJ

Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. "In this market, the slightest news can change everything,"

Kinahan said that many investors are wondering whether the stock market is priced too high. The average stock trades at 16 times its earnings over the past year, according to S&P Capital IQ. That's slightly higher than the historical average. Some tech stocks, however, are valued much higher. Amazon's stock has lost 27 percent this year, but it's still trading at a lofty 465 times earnings.

"Many of these stocks have come down a lot, but you can't say they're cheap," Kleintop said.

High prices reflect expectations for higher earnings, and companies in the S&P 500 are on track to report that earnings increased 3 percent in the first quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. The problem is, earnings growth is slowing down. In the previous quarter, earnings jumped nearly 8 percent.

And there are concerns about future profits. Of the companies that have provided forecasts for the second quarter, nearly nine out of 10 have warned of weaker earnings.

Whole Foods cut its profit outlook late Tuesday, saying it's facing increased competition as supermarkets, big-box stores and even online retailers step up their offerings of organic foods. It's the third time the grocery chain has reduced its profit forecast in the last six months. Whole Foods dropped \$9.02, or 19 percent, to \$38.93.

Among Internet stocks, NetApp, a data management and storage company, fell \$1.28, or 4 percent, to \$33.70 and salesforce.com lost \$1.35, or 3 percent, to \$50.43.

Just two of the eight sectors in the S&P 500 fell, information technology and consumer discretionary companies. Gainers included utilities, which rose the most, 1.6 percent. That's a sign investors are still cautious. □

Mondelez and DE Master combining coffee businesses

DEERFIELD, ILL. (AP) — Mondelez and D.E. Master Blenders will link their coffee businesses together as Mondelez concentrates increasingly on its snack foods division and cost cutting.

The deal is part of a \$3.5 billion restructuring program underway at Mondelez that is projected to create \$1.5 billion in savings by 2018. The company said that the restructuring is expected to include some job cuts, but it did not specify how many positions or where.

Shares of Mondelez rose more than 7 percent in midday trading Wednesday.

Mondelez, which makes Oreo and Chips Ahoy cookies, Trident gum and Cadbury chocolate, split from Kraft Foods Group Inc. in late 2012.

The newly formed coffee producer will sell Gevalia, Tassimo and Jacobs, which

are Mondelez brands, and Senseo and Douwe Egberts from D.E. Master Blenders, formerly the Sara Lee coffee business.

The new company, with annual revenue of more than

in revenue in 2013, while D.E. Master Blenders 1753 B.V. had approximately \$3.4 billion.

About 85 percent of overall revenue at Mondelez will come from its snacks

Acorn Holdings, which owns D.E. Master Blenders, has made a separate offer for the French business.

Mondelez will receive about \$5 billion when the transaction closes and have a 49 percent equity stake in the new company. Mondelez said that it plans to use most of the proceeds to expand its stock repurchases and anticipates using the balance to help lower debt and other things.

Acorn will have a majority stake in the combined company and will also hold a majority of the board seats. D.E. Master Blenders Chairman Bart Becht will serve as chairman of the combined business.

D.E. Master Blenders CEO Pierre Laubies is likely to become CEO of the new entity. The rest of the leadership team, to be named later, will consist of executives from both Mondelez and D.E. Master Blenders. □



Two people pass the Douwe Egberts Café at Villa ArenA, a mall which specializes in interior design, on the outskirts of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Mondelez International Inc. and D.E. Master Blenders 1753 B.V. are combining their coffee businesses. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

\$7 billion, will be called Jacobs Douwe Egberts and it will be headquartered in the Netherlands.

Mondelez International Inc. had about \$3.9 billion

once the coffee deal is complete, the company said.

The deal only includes Mondelez's coffee portfolio outside of France.

Hurt by Asia, HSBC's quarterly earnings decline 18%

CHAD BRAY

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LONDON - The British bank HSBC reported Wednesday that first-quarter profit fell 18 percent amid a slump in its Asian operations, which account for more than half its earnings.

HSBC, based in London, said earnings fell to \$5.21 billion from \$6.35 billion in the period a year earlier. The first quarter of 2013 included a \$553 million gain on the sale of its holdings in Ping An Insurance of China and a \$1.1 billion accounting gain from the reclas-

sification of its stake in the Chinese lender Industrial Bank.

On an underlying basis, HSBC said pretax profit fell 13 percent, to \$6.62 billion, from \$7.59 billion in the first quarter of 2013.

The bank's underlying profit included adjustments for the effect of foreign currency movements and acquisitions.

In Asia, HSBC's profit before tax fell 31.7 percent, to \$3.76 billion.

Revenue declined 13.8 percent, to \$15.9 billion. Net interest income - the mea-

sure of what a bank earns on its lending after deducting what it pays out on deposits and other liabilities - fell 2.8 percent, to \$8.72 billion.

And HSBC said it continued to experience "muted customer activity" in April.

"In the first quarter, we maintained control of costs and further demonstrated our capital resilience," Stuart T. Gulliver, HSBC's chief executive, said in a statement.

"Whilst revenue was lower than the previous year's first quarter, which benefited

from a number of specific items, we have seen progress in revenue over the trailing quarters."

In a research report Wednesday, two Citigroup analysts, Ronit Ghose and Andrew Coombs, said the bank's results were in line with their estimates, but that cost reductions were ahead of expectations.

HSBC's operating expenses declined 5 percent, to \$8.85 billion, while charges for poorly performing loans and other credit risks fell 31.9 percent, to \$798 million, from \$1.17 billion in the

period a year earlier.

The bank's common equity Tier 1 capital ratio, a measure of its ability to absorb losses, slipped to 10.8 percent at the end of the first quarter from 10.9 percent at the end of the year-earlier period.

European banks are required to have a minimum common equity capital ratio of 4 percent this year under the so-called Basel III rules, but larger banks are required to maintain a higher minimum, which is set by national regulators. □

Fox Co. 3Q earnings top Wall Street expectations

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. reported third-quarter earnings that topped analyst expectations as revenue grew thanks to higher advertising sales and a popular Super Bowl.

But its profits were tempered by higher expenses due to the launch of new channels including Fox Sports 1.

The media conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch said Wednesday that net income in the quarter through March fell 63 percent to \$1.05 billion, or 47 cents per share, from \$2.85 billion, or \$1.22 per share, a year earlier.

Last year's results were skewed by a special gain of \$2.1 billion from raising its stake in German satellite TV operator Sky Deutschland. After adjustments that offset each other, the resulting 47 cents per share of earn-

ings beat the 35 cents expected by analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue rose 12 percent

to \$8.22 billion from \$7.35 billion a year ago. Analysts were expecting revenue of \$7.98 billion.

Pay TV revenue grew 11 percent to \$3.15 billion as it earned more in fees from distributors and advertis-

ing revenue rose. Operating earnings also rose despite the rising expenses for channel launches.

Broadcast TV revenue rose 27 percent to \$1.59 billion, thanks in part to the advertising bump from the Seahawks' defeat of the Broncos in Super Bowl XLVIII, the most watched TV show in U.S. history.

That, plus strong viewership of the NFL playoffs, more than offset a decline in audience ratings for the talent show, American Idol.

Movie studio revenue declined 3 percent to \$2.28 billion, while revenue from its satellite TV business rose 16 percent to \$1.53 billion.

Shares in New York-based Fox rose \$1.13, or 3.5 percent, to \$33.25 in after-hours trading following the release of results. Earlier, shares closed down 29 cents at \$32.12 in the regular session. □



In this photo provided by FOX Broadcasting, from left, Sam Woolf, Jena Irene and Alex Preston perform on the April 30, 2014, episode of the 13th season of "American Idol." 21st Century Fox reported strong quarterly earnings on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

(AP Photo/FOX Broadcasting, Michael Becker)

Tesla loses \$50 million in 1Q as costs rise

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Electric car maker Tesla Motors lost \$49.8 million in the first quarter as it accelerated the development of its new crossover.

Tesla's loss of 40 cents per share compared with a profit of 10 cents per share in the January-March period last year. Last year's first-quarter profit was the

decade-old company's first ever profitable quarter. Revenue grew 10 percent to \$620.5 million in the latest quarter. Tesla said it produced a record 7,535 Model S sedans during the period and delivered 6,457 to customers.

Still, the results fell far short of Wall Street's estimates. Analysts polled by FactSet had forecast a profit of 8 cents per share on revenue

of \$683.5 million.

Tesla's shares fell 8 percent to \$185.51 in after-hours trading.

Research and development costs jumped 49 percent to \$81.5 million as Tesla prepares to launch the Model X crossover next year and adapts the Model S for a growing number of international markets. Tesla plans to launch a right-hand-drive Model S in

the United Kingdom in June and in Japan and Hong Kong later this summer.

The Palo Alto, California-based company is also laying the groundwork for a battery factory that is expected to be complete in 2020. Tesla is considering sites in New Mexico, Arizona,

Texas and Nevada, and will develop two possible sites simultaneously to mini-

mize delays. But in a letter to shareholders, Tesla didn't say which states will get the nod.

Tesla also incurred costs to install additional safety equipment on its new and existing cars after the government began investigating two Model S battery fires. In both cases, road debris punctured an aluminum shield and the battery, touching off fires. □

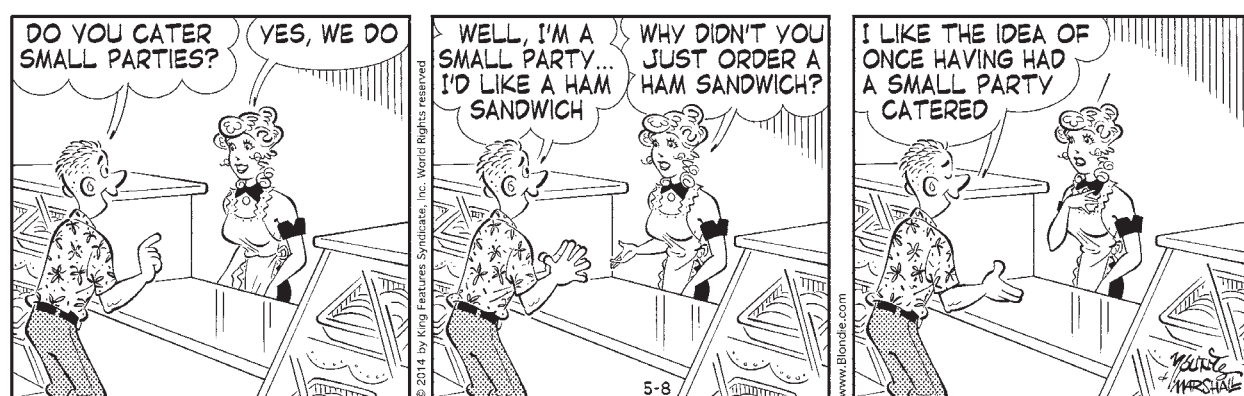
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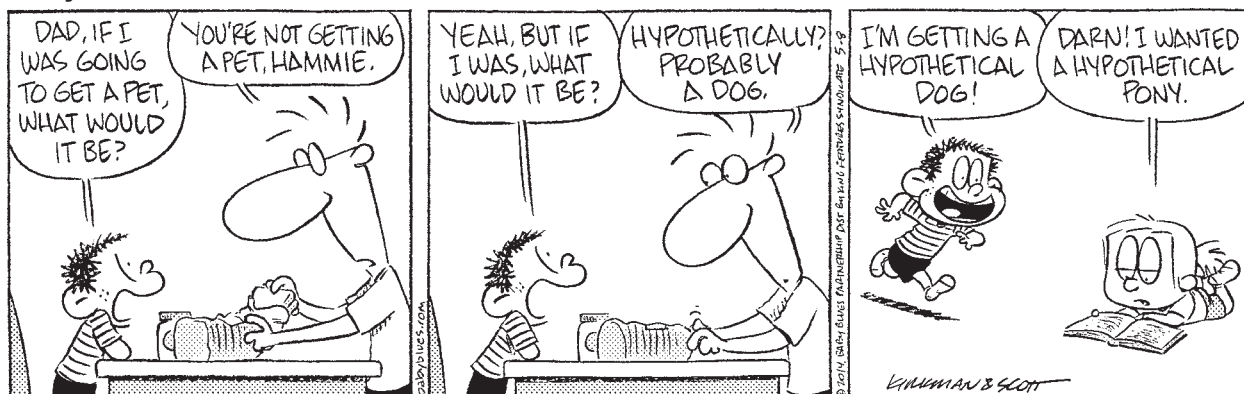
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NFL milks the clock with ever-expanding draft

Continued from page 32

"As the draft has gone to prime time and the green room is shown on television, the sponsors know their products will be used in an authentic way," said Renie Anderson, who is in charge of sponsorships for the NFL.

The league will also wine and dine 32 retired star players (one representing each team), who will also announce the second-round picks, as well as well-known retirees living in the New York metropolitan area.

In some ways, the draft is the climax of months of speculation about where college players will land, a process that begins the previous season, when standouts emerge, the deficiencies of NFL teams are exposed and the draft order is set. The Senior Bowl, the scouting combine, the private team workouts and the sports media, which host mock drafts and devote shows to the draft, fuel the interest.

It is a far cry from 1979, when the commissioner then, Pete Rozelle, hatched a plan with Chet Simmons, the president of ESPN, to televise the draft live. Simmons was eager to fill his fledgling all-sports cable network and Rozelle wanted to popularize an event that had been almost exclusively for insiders. The owners rejected the idea because they were afraid it would give the players' agents' airtime, said Jim Steeg, who ran the draft in those days. "They didn't have the vision to see what it could be," he said. "Every time you think it can't get bigger, it gets bigger."

But Rozelle got his way, and television coverage turned the draft into a spectacle. In the first few years, ESPN did not pay to broadcast the draft. But when the owners learned how much money the network made selling advertisements, ESPN was asked to cover the cost of the draft. ESPN was later charged a rights



FILE -- Representatives of NFL and AFL teams keep in touch with their superiors by phone during their joint draft of college players, at the Gotham Hotel in New York, March 15, 1967. (Robert Walker/The New York Times)

fee as part of its long-term deal, money the network said was well spent.

"The draft is still great reality TV," said Seth Markman, who leads the draft coverage for ESPN, which drew 6.2 million viewers for the first night of the draft last year. "I get more ticket requests for the draft than the Super Bowl."

As the draft has grown, the league has moved to larger sites, from the Waldorf-Astoria in 1979 to several other hotels in midtown Manhattan before decamping to the theater at Madison Square Garden, the Javits Convention Center and then Radio City Music Hall. □

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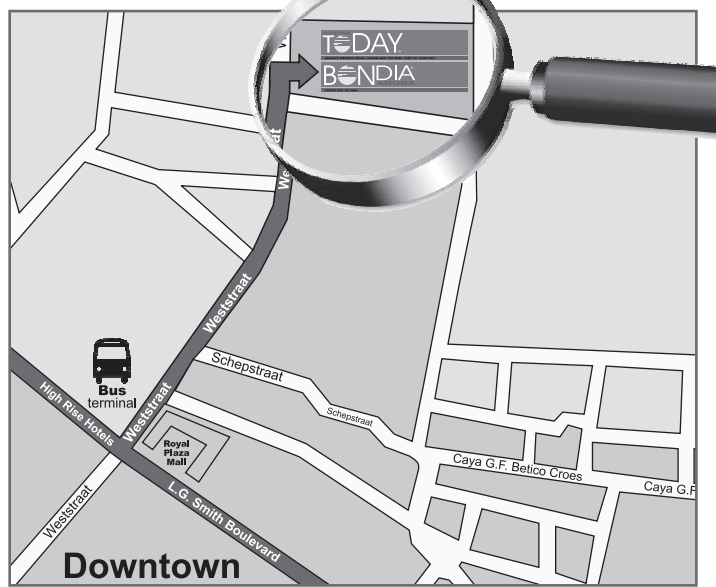
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Federal report: Warming disrupts Americans' lives

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans are already feeling man-made global warming, from heat waves to wild storms to longer allergy seasons. And it is likely to get worse and more expensive, says a new federal report that is heating up political debate along with the temperature.

Shortly after the report came out Tuesday, President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to make his point about the bad weather news and a need for action to curb carbon pollution before it is too late.

"We want to emphasize to the public, this is not some distant problem of the future. This is a problem that is affecting Americans right now," Obama told "Today" show weather-caster Al Roker. "Whether it means increased flooding, greater vulnerability to drought, more severe wildfires — all these things are having an impact on Americans as we speak." Climate change's assorted harms "are expected to become increasingly disruptive across the nation throughout this century and beyond," the National Climate Assessment concluded, emphasizing the impact of too-wild weather as well as simple warming. Still, it's not too late to prevent the worst of climate change, says the 840-page



A grove of trees that was destroyed by Sunday's wildfire is left on Monday, May 5, 2014, in Guthrie, Okla.

Associated Press

report, which the Obama administration is highlighting as it tries to jump-start often-stalled efforts to curb heat-trapping gases. Said White House science adviser John Holdren: "It's a good-news story about the many opportunities to take cost-effective actions to reduce the damage."

Release of the report, the third edition of a congressionally mandated study, gives Obama an opportunity to ground his campaign against climate change in science and numbers, endeavoring to blunt the arguments of those who question the idea and human contributions to such changes. Lat-

er this summer, the administration plans to propose new regulations restricting gases that come from existing coal-fired power plants. Not everyone is persuaded. Some fossil energy groups, conservative think tanks and Republican senators immediately assailed the report as "alarmist." Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Obama was likely to "use the platform to renew his call for a national energy tax. And I'm sure he'll get loud cheers from liberal elites — from the kind of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets." Since taking office, Obama has not proposed a specific tax on fossil fuel emissions. He has proposed a system that caps emissions and allows companies to trade carbon pollution credits, but it has failed in Congress. Republican Sen. David Vit-

ter said the report was supposed to be scientific but "it's more of a political one used to justify government overreach." And leaders in the fossil fuel industry, which is responsible for a large amount of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide, said their energy is needed and America can't afford to cut back.

"Whether you agree or disagree with the report, the question is: What are you going to do about it? To us that is a major question," said Charlie Drevna, president of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers. He called the report "overblown."

The report — which is full of figures, charts and other research-generated graphics — includes 3,096 footnotes referring to other mostly peer-reviewed research. It was written by more than 250 scientists and government officials, starting in 2012. A draft was

released in January 2013, but this version has been reviewed by more scientists, including twice by the National Academy of Sciences which called it "reasonable," and "a valuable resource."

Environmental groups praised the report. "If we don't slam the brakes on the carbon pollution driving climate change, we're dooming ourselves and our children to more intense heat waves, destructive floods and storms and surging sea levels," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Scientists and the White House called it the most detailed and U.S.-focused scientific report on global warming.

The report looks at regional and state-level effects of global warming, compared with recent reports from the United Nations that lumped all of North America together.

"All Americans will find things that matter to them in this report," said scientist Jerry Melillo of the Marine Biological Laboratory, who chaired the science committee that wrote it. "For decades we've been collecting the dots about climate change; now we're connecting those dots."

In a White House conference call with reporters, National Climatic Data Center Director Tom Karl said his two biggest concerns were flooding from sea level rise on the U.S. coastlines — especially for the low-lying cities of Miami, Norfolk, Virginia, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire — and drought, heat waves and prolonged fire seasons in the Southwest. □

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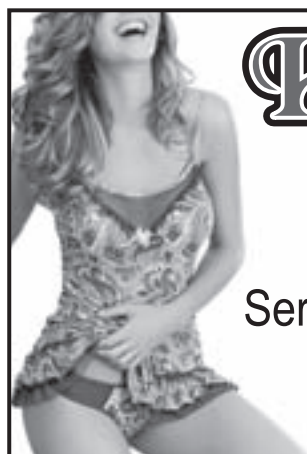
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Hemingway pic a rare Hollywood moment in Cuba

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Rebels allied with a young Fidel Castro burst into the street outside Havana's Government Palace as soldiers loyal to strongman Fulgencio Batista rain gunfire from above. Steps away, Ernest Hemingway and a young journalist friend dive for cover behind a parked car.

An international film crew in recent weeks has been re-enacting this and other historic scenes in the streets of Havana for "Papa," a biopic about the budding friendship between Hemingway and the reporter in the turbulent Cuba of the 1950s.

Years in the making, producers say it is the first full-length feature film with a Hollywood director and actors to be shot in the country since the 1959 revolution.

Due to decades of ill will between the two countries and Washington's 52-year-long embargo, other movies ostensibly set here, such as "The Godfather Part

II" and 1990's "Havana," were filmed in stand-in locations like the Dominican Republic.

"It was an absolute passion to actually make it in Cuba where everything that is in the script happened, where the finca (farm) is where (Hemingway) lived, where his boat was, all the spots from the Morro castle to Cojimar where he fished," director Bob Yari said. "It's all here, so trying to duplicate it somewhere else was not very appealing."

Shooting began in March and wrapped over the weekend on the joint Canadian-Cuban-American production, with the island's governmental film institute known as ICAIC providing location support, period costumes and local actors.

"Papa" came to Cuba under a U.S. Treasury Department license exempting it from most embargo restrictions. The film's makers said there was a cap on how much they could spend, but would not say how much or release



In this April 26, 2014 photo, actor Giovanni Ribisi in acts a scene while shooting the movie "Papa" in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

overall budget figures. For licensing purposes the movie qualified as a documentary, since it depicts a firsthand account of real events that took place here. So it's unlikely just any Hollywood blockbuster would get the same permission in the

future.

Though the title derives from the Nobel Prize-winning novelist's nickname, the movie is based on an autobiographical script by Denne Bart Petitclerc, who is played by Giovanni Ribisi ("Avatar," "Saving Private Ryan"). Hemingway is portrayed by theater and screen veteran Adrian Sparks. Petitclerc was abandoned by his father as a young boy, fell in love with Hemingway's writing and later came to see him as a father figure.

While working for the Miami Herald in the 1950s, Petitclerc wrote a letter to Hemingway professing his admiration. He didn't intend to send it, but his girlfriend found it and dropped it in the mail.

On a recent Saturday, a reading room at the University of Havana library stood in for the Herald newsroom. Cuban extras milled about in slim ties and saddle shoes, long skirts and horn-rimmed glasses. Vintage typewriters clacked away.

The scene retells the moment when Petitclerc, known as "Ed" in the movie, fields a fateful phone call that at first he thinks is a prank by one of his pals. "Good letter, kid," says Hemingway. "You like to fish?"

Before long, Ed is on a boat with his idol, and the two strike up a friendship that would last until Hemingway's 1961 suicide. The film crew got access to some of Havana's most iconic locales, including the former Government Palace, which long ago was turned into a museum celebrating Castro's revolution.

At the majestic Grand Theater, which is closed for restoration, a sumptuous salon was tricked out to look like the bar of the Ambos Mundos hotel where Hemingway frequently stayed. In this scene, Ed is tipped off by notorious mobster Santo Trafficante (James Remar; "Django Unchained," "Dexter") that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has it out for Hemingway.

Producers even secured unprecedented permission to shoot inside Hemingway's former estate, Finca Vigia, today considered such a shrine that tourists aren't even allowed inside and must peer in through the windows.

Sparks who has played Hemingway on stage since 2005, confessed to something of a spiritual connection to the writer and said it was a magical experience portraying him in the land he loved. □

Original 'Born to Run' lyrics on display in U.S.

MARTHA WAGGONER

Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) Bruce Springsteen's first draft of his 1975 classic "Born to Run" is making its public debut this week at Duke University.

The 30 lines of lyrics, written in pen on a piece of paper, were purchased last December at a Sotheby's auction by Floyd Bradley, a California man whose daughter graduates this weekend from Duke, as does Springsteen's daughter.

Bradley, 62, a retired computer software marketer who spent much of his life in London, paid \$160,000 plus a commission, bringing the total to \$197,000.

"It was a lot. I was embarrassed to tell my children," he said. "But they were

very supportive after I told them."

He bought them as an investment, he said. "It's a piece of Americana, I think."

The original lyrics, written in 1974 in New Jersey, bear little resemblance to the anthem that Springsteen typically plays each concert with the house lights on and the audience on its feet.

But that familiar chorus of "tramps like us/baby we were born to run" is there as is a part that ended up much like the final version: "this town'll rip the bones from your back/it's A suicide trap/your dead unless you get out while your young."

In the margins, he's written words such as "wild angels," "Stroll on!" and "the



In this image released Tuesday, May 6, 2014, by Sotheby's, an autographed manuscript signed by Bruce Springsteen is shown.

Associated Press

rebels."

"Something as iconic as this song, it's going to be important to American history," said Duke University exhibit librarian Meg Brown, who found 25 books about Springsteen, mostly academic, in Duke's collections. □

Musical theater workshop becomes a Broadway engine

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a room in a lower Manhattan skyscraper, a musical is being born, song by song. Standing at a piano is an up-and-coming songwriting team, presenting a new tune called "Think of Cheese" from its fledgling show "Afterland," which takes place outside post-apocalyptic Philadelphia. Composer and co-lyricist Benjamin Velez launches into a flamenco-flavored ditty.

"See the cheese, see the cheese/See the Parmesan is snowing/On the trees/Ooh, la-la/Smell that pungent odor blowing," sings Velez, as his co-writer Kathryn Hathaway looks on, somewhat nervously.

Some two dozen fellow lyricists, playwrights and composers fill the seats, all hoping to join the list of musical heavyweights who have gone through this classroom process, including Alan Menken, Lynn Ahrens, Steve Flaherty, Maury Yeston, Tom Kitt, Brian Yorkey and Amanda Green. The song over, it's time for the young composers to face the music.

Hands go up in the class. One student complements the team on a song with spectacular music and clever lyrics but wonders who is making cheese in post-apocalyptic Philadelphia. Another wonders to whom exactly the song is being sung. Someone else wants to know what the song's function is in the show. Still another hates the



This image released by Polk & Co. shows Sutton Foster, second right, and Annie Golden, right, during a performance of "Violet" in New York.

Associated Press

title.

Velez and Hathaway graciously take the criticism and sit down. There are five more songs to be presented on this day, including a tune about a 12-year-old science-obsessed girl in the 1950s trying to be cool, and a song sung by a woman who has found foot-fetish porn on her husband's computer.

This class is part of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, and judging by its track record as a top-notch incubator of musicals, there's a good chance that in a few years there will be a new Broadway show with a song about post-apocalyptic cheese.

"It gives writers something that is very hard to come by: an audience every

week," says "The Book of Mormon" co-writer Bobby Lopez, who for the last three years has helped moderate the advanced group with his wife, composer Kristen Anderson-Lopez, whom he met at the workshop.

Shows nurtured by the program include "A Chorus Line," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Nine," "Once On This Island," "Ragtime," "Avenue Q" and "Next To Normal." Six musicals currently playing on Broadway were authored or co-authored by members of the BMI Workshop: "Aladdin," "Newsies," "The Book of Mormon," "Violet," "If/Then" and "Rocky."

"We don't tell people what to write or how to write or even what style to write in. But we do teach and talk a lot about how musicals are

put together," says writer and lyricist Patrick Cook, the program's director, who is a former workshop student.

"We're one of the only places that actually talks about the craft of musical theater and how it's a different craft than almost every other art form," he adds. The BMI workshops started in 1961 and its three-year program goes from learning the basics of songwriting to the creation of full-length musicals. Seasoned veterans attend the advanced workshop to present ongoing projects. New songs from a fresh batch of composers will be presented Thursday at a showcase at the BMI's home at 7 World Trade Center.

One early assignment is to write a song that is either a

sad hello or a happy goodbye, which both turn out to be devilishly hard. "It forces people to write with some kind of subtext," says Cook. Cook should know: He first joined the workshop as a student in 1984. "I thought I knew everything. And after the first class, I went, 'Oh, I don't know very much, do I?'" he says, laughing.

Anderson-Lopez, who won an Oscar with her husband for the music to the smash film "Frozen," says she owes a lot to the workshop. "For me, it was one-stop shopping for a life," she says.

She was pursuing a ho-hum career as a musical theater actress — "I was playing a lot of nuns in New Hampshire" — but doing a lot of rewriting of lyrics on the side. She couldn't afford a master's program but someone suggested the BMI, which is free to participants.

"Within a month, I had realized: 'I am a writer. This is what I need to do.' The sky opened up and a hand reached down and said, 'Follow this path.' Robert Lopez, who also met his "Avenue Q" songwriting partner Jeff Marx at the workshop, says feedback from fellow writers is invaluable, particularly if they help identify recurring problems. "You're trying to help the person write the show they want to write — not the show you would write and not steer them away from something that's not your cup of tea," he says.

"You're trying to help them do what they want to do." □



This book cover image released by Atria Books shows "The Keeper," by John Lescroart.

Associated Press

John Lescroart delivers with 'The Keeper'

JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

John Lescroart has been delivering compelling legal thrillers for years, and his latest, "The Keeper," is another baffling and terrific read. Abe Glitsky was a homicide detective for some time, but now he's retired — and bored. When his friend, attorney Dismas Hardy, asks for his help, he jumps at the chance to get back in the game. Hardy's client, Hal

Chase, claims everything was fine when he left his house to pick up his brother at the airport. When they returned, Hal's wife, Katie, has vanished.

Hal reports her disappearance, but the police believe something more sinister has occurred. The drive to the airport doesn't take as much time as Hal took to get there, and his brother's plane was delayed. Hal claims he was at a bar

waiting for the plane to arrive, but there is no evidence that he was there. To make things more complicated, the police find Katie's blood at the scene of her disappearance, and evidence reveals their marriage was on the rocks. Was Hal having an affair? Then Hardy learns that his own wife, a marriage counselor, was seeing Katie professionally. What really happened that night, and is

Hal manipulating Hardy to escape justice?

The reason that Lescroart's novels are so readable is his ability to take compelling characters and baffling mysteries and mix them together like a top-rated chef. Many writers include great plot elements but leave a bad taste in the mouth with a subpar ending. Lescroart satisfies with every bite, and the finale is delicious. □

Inventing a Failure



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Last week, House Republicans released a deliberately misleading report on the status of health reform, crudely rigging the numbers to sustain the illusion of failure in the face of unexpected success. Are you shocked?

You aren't, but you should be. Mainstream politicians didn't always try to advance their agenda through lies, damned lies and - in this case - bogus statistics. And the fact that this has become standard operating procedure for a major party bodes ill for America's future.

About that report: The really big policy news of 2014, at least so far, is the spectacular recovery of the Affordable Care Act from its stumbling start, thanks to an extraordinary late surge that took enrollment beyond early projections. The age mix of enrollees has improved; insurance companies are broadly satisfied with the risk pool. Multiple independent surveys confirm that the percentage of Americans without health insurance has already declined substantially, and there's every reason to believe that over the next two years the act will meet its overall goals, except in states that refuse to expand Medicaid.

This is a problem for Republicans, who have bet the ranch on the proposition that health reform is an unfixable failure. "Nobody can make Obamacare work," declared Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, a couple of weeks ago (when it was already obvious that it was working pretty well). How can they respond to good news?

Well, they could graciously admit that they were wrong, and offer constructive suggestions about how to make the law work even better. Oh, sorry - I forgot that I wasn't writing jokes for the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

No, they have in fact continued to do what they've been doing ever since the news on Obamacare started turning positive: sling as much mud as possible at health reform, in the hope that some of it sticks. Premiums were soaring, they declared, when they have actually come in below projections. Millions of people were losing coverage, they insisted, when the great bulk of those whose policies were canceled simply replaced them with new policies. The Obama administration was cooking the books, they cried (projection,

anyone?). And, of course, they keep peddling horror stories about people suffering terribly from Obamacare, not one of which has withstood scrutiny.

Now comes the latest claim - that many of the people who signed up for insurance aren't actually paying their premiums. Obviously this claim is part of a continuing pattern. It also, however, involves a change in tactics. Previous attacks on Obamacare were pretty much fact-free; this time the claim was backed by a survey purporting to show that a third of enrollees hadn't paid their first premium. But the survey was rigged. (Are you surprised?) It asked insurers how many enrollees had paid their first premium; it ignored the fact that the first premium wasn't even due for the millions of people who signed up for insurance after March 15.

And the fact that the survey was so transparently rigged is a smoking gun, proving that the attacks on Obamacare aren't just bogus; they're deliberately bogus. The staffers who set up that survey knew enough about the numbers to skew them, which meant that they have to have known that Obamacare is actually doing OK.

So why are Republicans doing this? Sad to say, there's method in their fraudulence.

First of all, it fires up the base. After this latest exercise in deception, we can be fairly sure that Republican leaders know perfectly well that Obamacare has failed to fail. But the party faithful don't. Like anyone who writes about these issues, I get vast amounts of mail from people who know, just know, that insurance premiums are skyrocketing, that far more people have lost insurance because of Obummercare than have gained it, that all the horror stories are real, and that anyone who says otherwise is just a liberal shill.

Beyond that, the constant harping on alleged failure works as innuendo even if each individual claim collapses in the face of evidence. A recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that a majority of Americans know that more than 8 million people enrolled in health exchanges; but it also found a majority of respondents believing that this was below expectations, and that the law was working badly.

So Republicans are spreading disinformation about health reform because it works, and because they can - there is no sign that they pay any political price when their accusations are proved false.

And that observation should scare you. What happens to the Congressional Budget Office if a party that has learned that lying about numbers works takes full control of Congress? What happens if it regains the White House, too? Nothing good, that's for sure. □



Eye-for-an-Eye Incivility



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2014 New York Times

The botched Oklahoma execution of Clayton Lockett has called our continued use of the death penalty in this country back into question. In many ways, the death penalty is an abhorrent attempt to sate an irrational cultural bloodlust, rooted in vengeance and barbarism and detached from data.

To be sure, Lockett was no angel. He was convicted of first-degree murder for shooting a young woman, Stephanie Neiman, and watching as accomplices buried her alive. And according to The Associated Press: "In addition to the murder charge, Lockett was found guilty of conspiracy, first-degree burglary, three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, three counts of forcible oral sodomy, four counts of first-degree rape, four counts of kidnapping and two counts of robbery by force and fear. The charges were after former convictions of two or more felonies, according to the court clerk's office."

Those sentenced to death have often, like Lockett, been convicted of heinous, nearly unspeakable crimes. But is state-sponsored eye-for-an-eye justice truly a mark of a civilized society? How do we not, as a culture, descend to the same depravity of the person who takes a life - or multiple lives -

when, as citizens of a state or country, we, in turn, take the murderer's life? Do our haphazard attempts to rid the world of evil imbue us with it?

Lockett's execution was by all accounts a gruesome affair, as he gasped and writhed on the gurney, a vein collapsed and he suffered a heart attack. According to NewsOK:

"Lockett grimaced and tensed his body several times over a three-minute period before the execution was shielded from the press. After being declared unconscious 10 minutes into the process, Lockett spoke at three separate moments. The first two were inaudible, however the third time he spoke, Lockett said the word 'man.'"

How does a death like this pass constitutional muster, with our guarantee against "cruel and unusual punishment," even for a person convicted of administering cruel and unusual punishment?

When President Barack Obama was asked on Friday about the Oklahoma execution, he repeated his belief that capital punishment should be an option in some cases but pointed out that:

"The application of the death penalty in this country, we have seen significant problems - racial bias, uneven application of the death penalty, you know, situations in which there were individuals on death row who later on were discovered to have been innocent because of exculpatory evidence. And all these, I think, do raise significant questions about how the death penalty is being applied. And this situation in Oklahoma I think just highlights some of the significant problems there."

And not only are there application and misapplication issues, the death penalty is also a tremendous drain on resources. Professor Jeffrey A. Fagan of Columbia Law School has argued that "even in states where

prosecutors infrequently seek the death penalty, the price of obtaining convictions and executions ranges from \$2.5 million to \$5 million per case (in current dollars), compared to less than \$1 million for each killer sentenced to life without parole."

Our continued use of the death penalty does not put us in good company.

According to a 2014 report from Amnesty International, "only nine countries have continuously executed in each of the past five years - Bangladesh, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, U.S.A. and Yemen."

Unfortunately, the death penalty is part of this country's blood memory, a memory we are having a hard time shaking. According to a morbidly fascinating chart published last week by Time magazine and derived from data collected by M. Watt Espy, John Ortiz Smykla and the Death Penalty Information Center, the United States has executed 15,717 people since 1700, most of them hanged. The peak year for executions was 1935 with nearly 200 people put to death, mostly by electrocution. In 2014, 20 people have been put to death, all by lethal injection.

Even steps toward remedying the problem with the death penalty raise questions. As Fagan put it, "As states across the country adopt reforms to reduce the pandemic of errors in capital punishment, we wonder whether such necessary and admirable efforts to avoid error and the horror of the execution of the innocent won't - after many hundreds of millions of dollars of trying - burden the country with a death penalty that will be ineffective, unreasonably expensive and politically corrosive to the broader search for justice."

We are standing on the graves of the executed, and it is not a morally elevated position. □

NFL Milks the Clock With Ever-Expanding Draft

KEN BELSON

© 2014 New York Times

Imagine a sporting event without bats, balls or fields, and for which thousands of fans wait hours for seats and the television audience is larger than for many games. Throw in months of buildup, a red carpet entrance and big corporate sponsors, and you have the NFL draft.

Once a sleepy roll call for football insiders that was held in smoke-filled hotel ballrooms, the draft has turned into the highlight of the league's increasingly cluttered off-season. It is a marketing machine that feeds the seemingly insatiable desire for information about the nation's most popular sport and the college players who learn their professional fate on live television.

Two networks and more than 1,000 members of the news media will cover this year's event at Radio City Music Hall, which amounts to a beauty contest rolled into a high-stakes lottery. Starting with the Houston Texans, who have the first pick, the 3,500 fans in attendance will give voice to the millions of others watching at home by cheering or booing the draftees, including 30 top-ranked college players who will parade on stage in person.

Though the Super Bowl was three months ago and next season's kickoff is months away, the draft manages to overshadow playoffs in the NBA and the NHL. And this year it will get an extra boost from a new film, "Draft Day," which stars Kevin Costner as the general manager of the Cleveland Browns.

"The draft is a unique business product in that it plays out in a perfect speed for people to watch and there is a limitless combination of teams and players," said Robert Boland, who represented NFL players before he began teaching sports management at New York University. "It's a day of incredible theater."

That theater has grown exponentially since the

draft was first held in 1936 at the Ritz-Carlton in Philadelphia. The seven rounds over three days are now sandwiched by a host of fan-related events, alumni meetings and sponsor-driven raffles, contests, clinics and meet-and-greets with the players.

Though typically held in late April, the draft is two weeks later this year because of a scheduling conflict at Radio City. This has kept the NFL in the news deeper into the off-season, one reason the league might continue to hold the event at this

But the later draft has led to grumbling from team personnel, who said they would have less time to work with their picks. It also raised questions about whether a fourth draft day would be too much of a good thing.

"You can't swing a cat without hitting someone's mock draft that's been updated for the 38th time," said Michael MacCambridge, the author of "America's Game: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation."

Mark Cuban, the outspo-

MacCambridge, though, said that each time naysayers had warned that the NFL has expanded too far, it continued to grow.

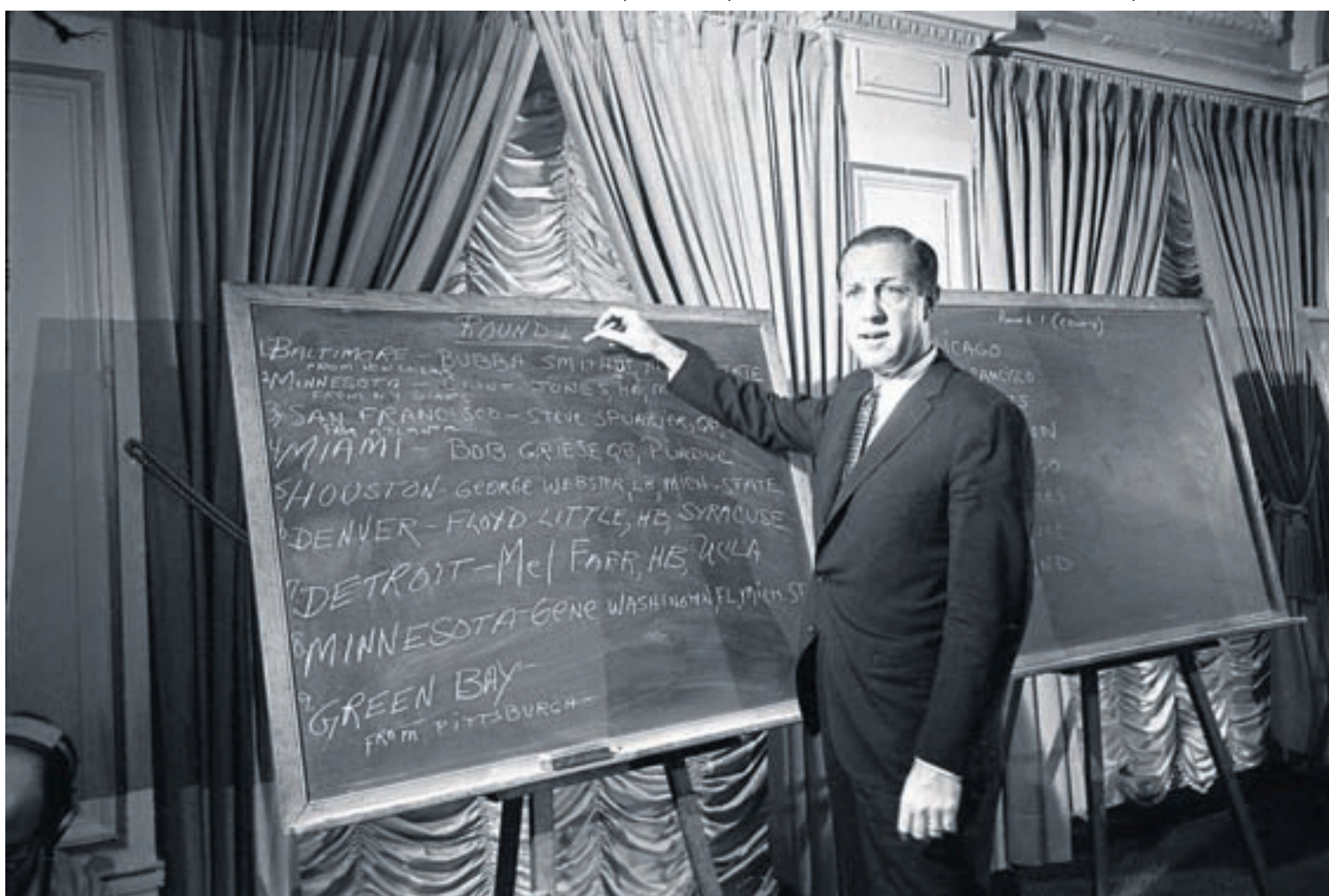
The draft's selection process itself is relatively straightforward. In the first round, Goodell reads the name of each pick, gives him a hug and poses for a picture with the prospect, who is holding a personalized No. 1 jersey. In later rounds, former stars and others serve as MCs.

As a business proposition, the draft is more complex. Players, who can earn mil-

base has grown to look at it as the beginning."

According to those familiar with the league's finances, the draft is a moneymaker. But accounting for it is difficult because the rights fees paid by ESPN and national sponsors like Verizon and Pepsi are included in their long-term agreements, which themselves have grown in size.

Costs have increased, too. This year, the league will pay for 30 top players to attend, up from 17 in 2010, when the draft was first held in prime time. Each



FILE -- NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle marks down first-round selections during the draft at the Gotham Hotel in New York, March 15, 1967. By first allowing spectators and then televising what was once an insiders-only process, Rozelle is essentially the man who turned the draft into the spectacle it is today.

(Robert Walker/The New York Times)

time. Roger Goodell, the NFL's commissioner, also said the league could add a fourth day to the draft and maybe hold part of it in another city. Other cities have lined up to host.

"From our standpoint, it's another two weeks that people are talking about the draft," Goodell said. But "what would be good from a fan standpoint obviously has to work from a football standpoint in order to make the event bigger and more popular."

ken owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, raised similar concerns in March when he said that the NFL would decline in popularity in the coming decade because it was saturating the market.

"I'm just telling you, when you've got a good thing and you get greedy, it always, always, always, always turns on you," he said after the league sold the rights to its Thursday night games to CBS. "That's rule No. 1 of business."

lions of dollars based on when they are picked, help teams and the league sell tickets, merchandise and sponsorships. The draft also allows fans to hit the reset button and prepare for the coming season.

"From a calendar perspective, it seems like the pinnacle moment, the end for the draftee," said Eric Weinberger, executive producer at NFL Network, which will also have cameras at more than 20 team draft parties. "But the fan

player can receive two first-class plane tickets, or four in coach; two hotel rooms (one suite and one standard room); transportation to and from the airport; and a table for six in the green room at Radio City Music Hall.

There, they will be showered with gifts from sponsors like Bose, which makes audio products, including headphones.

Continued on page 27